第一弾
新規登録
キャンペーン！

第二弾
シナリオ
1月14日実装

第三弾
乞うご期待

とある科学の超電磁砲
レールガン

×

真・女神転生
IMAGINE

電撃コラボレーション!!

とある科学の超電磁砲
レールガン

【とある科学の超電磁砲】とは
学園都市を舞台に、超能力あり、危険な恋ありの
複雑な乙女達が繰り広げる大人気アニメ！
まずは公式サイトをチェック!!

❄Mause❄ ❄Double❄Click❄

February 2010

❄Just Say No to Anime❄

MaUsE
Macintosh Users East

From The Editor

What you are looking at is the February 2010 edition of the MaUsE DoubleClick, the online publication of the Macintosh Users East, (MaUsE), a motley collection of mostly harmless cranks who reside in Southern Ontario with their motley collection of old and new Macintosh, Hackentosh & MacClone computers.

The DoubleClick is published using a 2.8 GHz Aluminum iMac and QuarkXPress 8. An antique Kodak DX7590 is used for all pictures. Everything not specifically attributed to someone else can probably be blamed on the Editor. Back issues can be downloaded from the MaUsE website: < www.mause.ca >. Submissions from MaUsE Club members are almost always welcome.

Send your submissions and articles to me at < ducati860@gmail.com >, especially if there are files or pictures attached. I have never refused a submission yet. Because we care about the environment, the MaUsE DoubleClick is created using only recycled electrons: matter was neither created nor destroyed in the process of creating this issue. There are no infractions of the law of matter conservation. There is always room for another piece on any Mac-related topic and I'll make room if there isn't. I would like your submissions. But I won't beg.

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Michael Shaw, Editor

Brrrrr....

Yes, it's cold. Bloody right it's cold. Brrrrr. It's February again in Southern Ontario. What did you expect ? On the other hand, there is a good chance that much of the worst of Winter is behind us now and there is no doubt that this month will see us through to the beginning of a warmer and sunnier March. Maybe the dreaded Global Warming (that we have heard so much about before the economy became news) will finally set in and we can get some sunshine and an early Spring. The days are already getting longer and it will soon be time to put the snow-blower away and tune up the lawn mower. Don't you feel better already ?
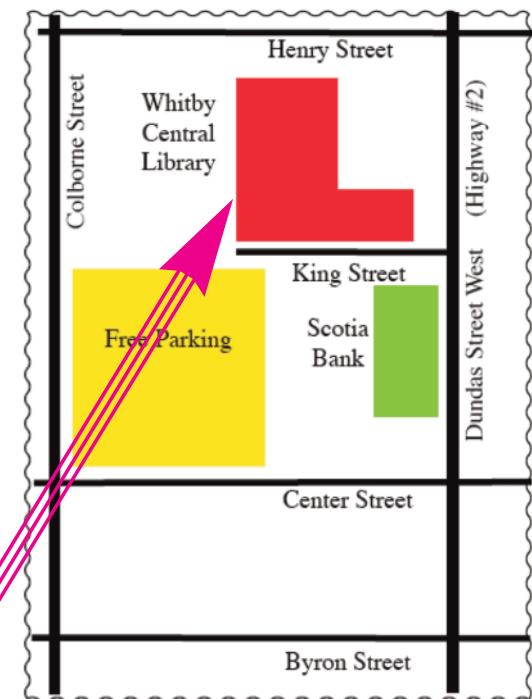
MaUsE Meetings are held in Room 1 at the new Whitby Public Library on the south-east corner of Henry and Dundas West in Whitby, Ontario. Meetings start at 7:00 PM but there is an early session from 6:30 for people who wish to discuss hardware or software issues or problems. Macintosh virus problem discussion from 6:58 to 7:00 PM as and if required. Meetings are open to the public and admission is free. Raffle tickets at MaUsE events are free but the free raffle tickets for Macintosh hardware or software will only be given to paid-up MaUsE Members. Please remember to bring your Membership card to every meeting.

CrossOver Mac Pro from CodeWeavers
How to Run Windows Programs on a Mac

There are many options for running Windows programs on the Mac because Apple now has the Intel processor. Boot Camp, for instance, is included with OS X for installing Windows on a separate partition. The software for running this is found in the Utilities folder of your Applications. With Boot Camp installed, you can startup your computer in either the Mac OS or the Windows environment. The big problem here is that you must reboot to switch operating systems. Parallels, VMware and VirtualBox offer virtualization software that let you run your Windows programs without logging out of OS X. The thing that all of these options have in common though is that they legally require you to actually run Windows and therefore own a Windows license.

CrossOver however allows you to run Windows applications without actually running Windows. With CrossOver installed on your Mac, you can insert a Windows version installer disc, install the program, and run it. CrossOver bridges directly between Windows software and OS X, allowing applications to run at full speed on your Macintosh desktop. CrossOver has been tested for performance with many common applications such as Microsoft Office, Adobe Photoshop and Quicken. It also works well with a wide variety of other programs. You can check for compatibility issues at < www.codeweavers.com/compatibility >. There are thousands of applications that work fine.

I would always opt for a Mac if given the choice, but some things you want to do with your computer still require Windows. Now, thanks to the Intel-based Mac, you can get a fast Windows environment without leaving the comfort of your Mac OS X. Some of the top reasons for needing to resort to Windows would be for games, interactive DVDs, some Microsoft or Adobe applications and Quicken.

Installing a Windows program is as straight forward as it would be on any Windows computer. CrossOver has a list of specific applications that you can choose to help you install. If you want to install from a single installer file or install one of CrossOver's automatic packages, select "Install Software…" from the Configure menu. Then select the name of the package from the list provided. If the program you want to install is not in the list, click "Install Unsupported Software…" and follow the steps provided by the CrossOver Software Installer. If all went well, a launcher icon appears for the application you just installed. This icon is in your home directory for later use. If your program did not create any icons, you can still launch it by selecting "Run Command…" from the Programs menu. This will access your virtual C drive which is located in Application Support/Crossover of your Library file. Remember that unsupported software may work poorly or not at all. In addition, installing unsupported software may prevent already installed supported Windows applications from working.
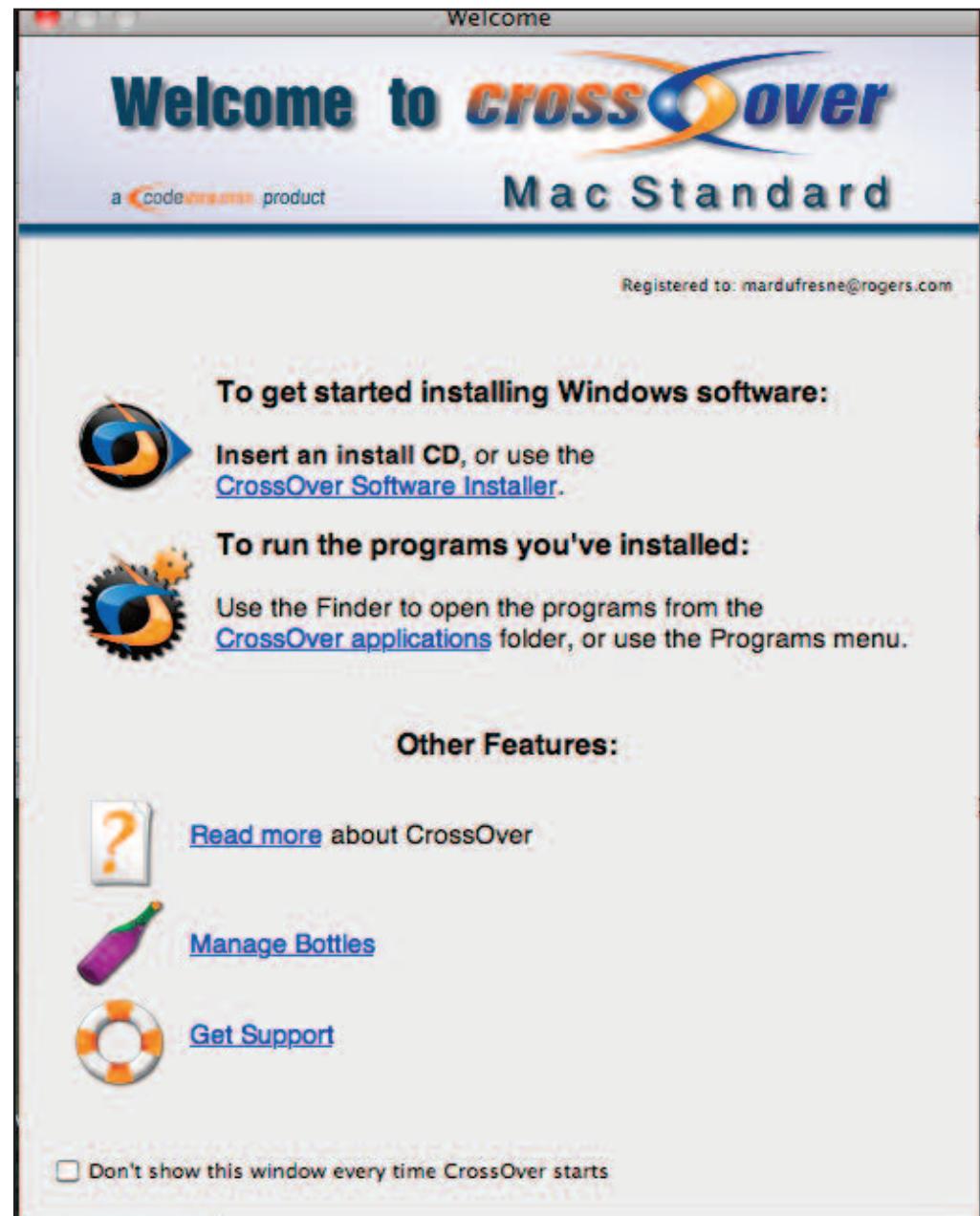
It is generally recommended that unsupported applications be installed in a new bottle for testing purposes. The bottle idea was the most confusing term used by CrossOver. A bottle is a virtual windows environment. Each bottle contains a unique C drive and all its standard sub directories: Windows, Program Files, etc. A bottle also contains a complete Windows registry, a full set of most CrossOver settings, and one or more Windows applications.

CrossOver allows you to maintain multiple bottles in one CrossOver installation. This is like having several different Windows machines operating together on your single Linux computer. This is useful anytime you want to install multiple applications yet prevent them from interacting or damaging one another. Most CrossOver users will be happy using a single, default bottle. The CrossOver Software Installer will automatically create the default bottle and any other bottles which you may need during normal use. You can choose to install all new software into an already existing bottle.

There is a very useful help menu that will lead you through your first few installs, if you need it. In case of a problem, the first place to check is online at the CodeWeavers tech-support. It is updated regularly to document known issues and their workarounds. With luck the solution to your problem may already be waiting for you. There are also some videos that can be watched for the more visual learners. These can also be found in the support area on CodeWeavers web site.

The thing I found most impressive about CrossOver was the intuitive way it worked. The minute I start or put in a disc that has a Windows component to it, the CrossOver application starts up. I can choose to ignore it, if I can run the application with Mac. A lot of CDs have Apple and Windows on them. There is no time lapse. This has to be the quickest way to run Windows applications. The biggest drawback is that it will not run all Windows applications. If you know specifically which Windows applications you would like to run on your Mac then check out their compatibility.

CrossOver is easy to install, and requires very little space on your system. Its minimum requirements are an Intel Macintosh, Mac OS X 10.4.4 or higher, 512M of RAM, 100MB of available disk space, and whatever space the Windows application would take up. There is a demo version of CrossOver that can be downloaded that has all the functions and features of the full version. Any windows software that works on a full version will also run in the demo version, and vice versa. The important limitation of the demo version is that bottles can only be used for 31 days. This means that any Windows packages that you install using the demo version will cease to work no more than 31 days after their installation. There is a fairly wide variety of CrossOver applications that you can purchase. These range from $39.95 to $69.95 for the Pro version. You can read about these and download a trial copy from http://www.codeweavers.com/products. This is the way to go if you do not have a Windows license. I can now run that old Windows game "Battle for Troy" that I picked up in the discounted rack.

Article submitted by **Marcel Dufresne**
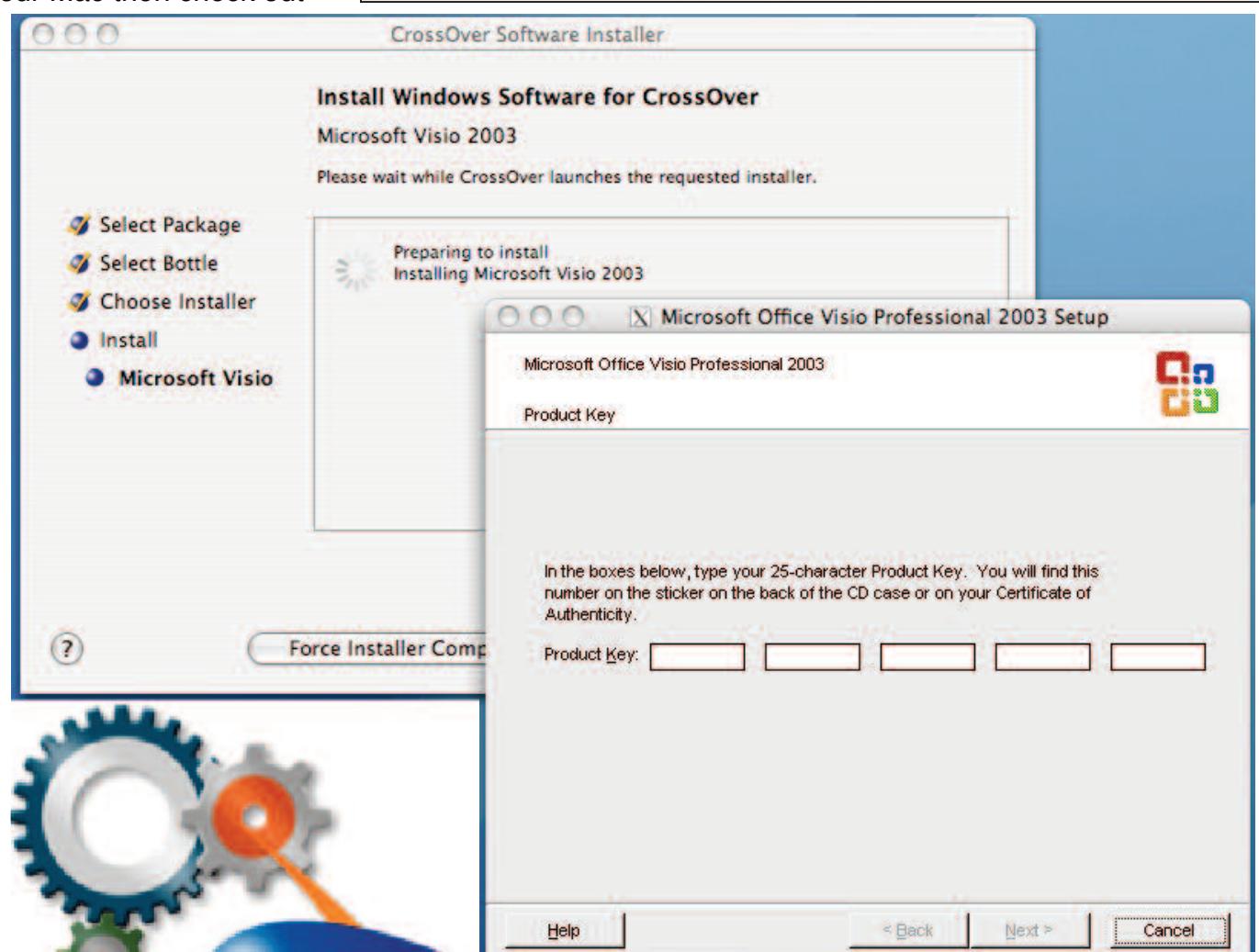
Matias Corp.
Tactile Pro 3.0

The best keyboard Apple ever made rises again... *again !*

I promised back before Christmas that I would write about the new Tactile Pro 3.0 keyboard when it became available. It was scheduled for release early in January 2010 and here it is January and mine has arrived. **First of all let me just say that the Tactile Pro 3.0 is radically different from the Tactile Pro 2.0 keyboard it replaced and in many ways an all-around better product.**

On several occasions in the past I have written about keyboards and I can honestly say that I have probably used some of the best and worst keyboards ever devised. In the July 2008 issue of the DoubleClick I wrote about the two best keyboarding experiences Macintosh users were ever likely to have and why. The two keyboards I wrote about were the famous **Apple ADB Extended Keyboard II M3501** and the **Matias USB Tactile Pro 2.0**. What made these two keyboards outstanding was the incredibly high-quality (but noisy) Alps mechanical keyswitches that were used during their construction. Unlike other keyboards each key on the keyboard was built on an individual Alps Mechanical Switch. Life expectancy for these switches was generally estimated at 20 to 25 years of normal use.

There is no argument that Apple computers have gotten better with every passing year. You get more RAM & storage and faster processor speeds per dollar spent than ever before. The MacOS is better, the screens are bigger, brighter and cheaper, and the design of the computers is definitely setting the pace for the entire computer industry. Apple leads where others follow. The only exception to this trend is the keyboard. **Apple keyboards built after 1993 generally suck.** For those of us who write a lot the keyboard is the single most important imput device we interact with every day. Like looking for hours at a cheap monitor, if the typing interaction is made difficult by poor quality or un-ergonomic design the experience can be awful.

tactilepro™
a better keyboard for your Mac

2004
winner
macworld
eddys
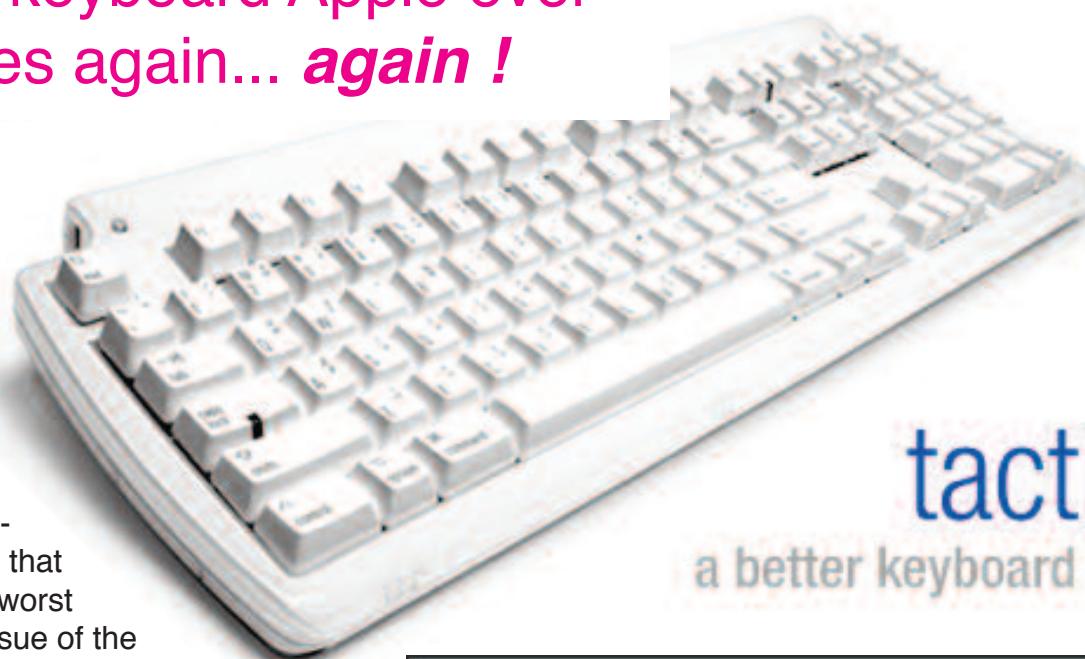
The Matias Tactile Pro Keyboard

It's not often enough that I get a chance to write about truly superior hardware and for this article I get two write about two different seriously superior hardware items. This is how it happened. Gunner mentioned on Mactopia that he was going to bring a few old ADB keyboards and an Epson printer to the May MaUsE Meeting. I said, "Absolutely; if anybody wants one of the keyboards or a Epson printer they will be greatly appreciated," and Aaron added that he would be interested in acquiring an Apple Extended Keyboard II in good condition **but only if it were Apple part number M3501.**

I remember those old keyboards fondly. I still have four older computers in the house that can use ADB keyboards (including a pair of really nice Daystar Genesis MP 800+ MacClones) and one of them has an M3501 keyboard connected to it. Those suckers are heavy and HUGE: fully 19 inches wide and 8 inches deep. In the manner that Apple has of giving their operating systems, computers and (other) hardware peripherals nick-names, the code names for their big keyboards were taken from the most famous American aircraft carriers: Enterprise, Saratoga and Nimitz.

Being the curious fellow that I am I did a little Wikipedia research and found that the Apple Extended Keyboard II was sold on its own as well as being sold pre-packaged with Apple professional desktop computers during the early 1990s. The M3501 keyboard is widely considered by enthusiasts to represent the golden era of Macintosh keyboards and is fondly remembered by many. Retrospective articles credit the success of the product to a combination of sound, feel and durability.

You can't use ADB keyboards with your new Macs anymore because all new Apple computers don't have an Apple Data Bus. According to Wikipedia many Mac-o-philes are still using the extended keyboards through the use of **ADB to USB adapters**. Also included in the entry Wikipedia says there is a company called Matias that now makes a keyboard called the **Tactile Pro** using the same type of keyswitches used in the Apple Extended Keyboards for people who don't have the adapter and an old M3501 but still want the feel of the old Apple Extended Keyboard II. I contacted Matias late in May and asked if I could test-drive one of their award-winning Tactile Pro keyboards, (now up to v2.0 with v3.0 due out next year). I must have caught the Matias people on a good day because I did receive one by post a few days later.

The snow-white Mac-only version of the Tactile Pro 2.0 keyboards were sold out when I enquired so the Matias people sent me a black & silver model that works with Mac and Windows computers. Well! I must say! What an amazing keyboard! I can see why sales of Tactile Pro keyboards are brisk. Based on the legendary Alps keyswitch used in the Apple Extended Keyboard, the new Matias Mechanical Keyswitch recreates the tactile feedback and force curve of the original Alps design, ensuring maximum performance, greater comfort, and faster typing speeds. You can feel the difference immediately. And you can hear it, complete with the familiar accompanying clackety-clack noise that you may not have heard in over a decade. The workmanship and feel of these Tactile Pro keyboards is equal or superior to any keyboard I've seen or used with any Mac computer in the past fifteen years and definitely a **HUGE** improvement over the new, insidious and hideous keyboard that came with my new iMac. At US $149.00 the price is a bit steep but this is still more keyboard than I expected. Not only does the Matias Tactile Pro 2.0 have the solid look and

Back in 2008 when I replaced the truly crappy stock flat aluminum Apple keyboard that shipped with my 2.8 GHz Intel iMac with the seriously superior **Matias Tactile Pro 2.0** I found that the Matias keyboard was as close to perfect as any USB keyboard I had ever used and that it had a much better feel than any of the newer Apple keyboards I had been using. The action was crisper and the annoying tendency to miss the first letter of many words disappeared. Now I have upgraded to the new 2010 model and I must say that from first impressions the **Matias Tactile Pro 3.0** keyboard has the same sturdy feel as the previous model and each keystroke is just as solid (and just as noisy). But there are some obvious differences, all of them improvements. One big difference is that the new model has no

tactilepro™
a better keyboard for your Mac
un meilleur clavier pour votre Mac

software required to enable any of its special features. The Pro 2.0 model could be optimised for PC or Mac with various software setup files that controlled the layout of special keys. This is neither required nor possible with the new Pro 3 model. Another new feature involves how the symbols are printed onto the keys. Anyone who types a lot with any keyboard will eventually notice that the symbols on the keys tend to wear off. Matias promises that with the Pro 3.0 model, (unlike the Pro 2.0 model), the symbols won't ever fade because they are laser etched (burned into the keys with a laser) so they'll never fade away. At a price of $150.00 this keyboard is intended for many years of use so this laser etching feature is definitely a plus. If you type a lot, and if product longevity is important to you, you will appreciate the value.

Another improvement is the built-in 3-port Hi-Speed USB 2.0 hub. The previous model had only two USB 2.0 ports and in order to enable the hub it was necessary to connect the keyboard to your computer with **two** USB connectors, color coded gold and silver. If you did not require the use of the USB 2.0 dock, you could leave the gold-colored plug unconnected.The complete connection and proper functioning of both the Pro 3.0 keyboard and its built-in 3-port USB 2.0 hub is now achieved with just one USB connector.

If you look closely at the picture of the keyboard (above) you will notice that there are two or three symbols on each key. The Tactile Pro 3.0 makes it easy to find special symbols like ™, €, £, ¥, © and other hard to remember symbols. Now they are all printed in pairs in very small script on the upper right corner of the keys. Simply hold down the **Option** key while typing for the bottom-right characters, or **Shift-Option** for the top-right characters. The F-keys function just as they do with other Apple keyboards and can be used to control volume and brightness, eject disks, and invoke Dashboard and Expose.

Most keyboards allow only a certain number of keys to be pressed at once, and often cannot keep up with very fast typists. The result is called ghosting — letters missing from what you actually typed, or additional letters that you didn't type. Some Apple keyboards, especially the previously mentioned aluminum iMac keyboard, are particularly prone to this fault. The Matias Tactile Pro 3.0 has special Anti-Ghosting Circuitry (also called n-key rollover) to eliminate these problems. You can type as fast as you're able; the Tactile Pro 3.0 will keep up.

Requirements for the Matias Tactile Pro 3.0 are any Mac with a USB port. In order for the USB hub to function in high-speed mode it must be plugged into a USB 2.0 port. When the keyboard is first connected to your Macintosh computer the Mac OS 10.3 or older (including Mac OS8 and OS9) will recognise it immediately. If you are running Mac OS 10.4 or higher the Keyboard Setup Assistant will launch and require a few specific keys be pressed to identify the keyboard to the computer. For Windows users there is a driver download from Matias that will change the Apple Option and Command keys into Windows and Alt keys.

The Matias Corporation is located in Newmarket, Ontario. More information about the Tactile Pro 3.0 and other specialty keyboards can be found on the internet at: **< http://www.matias.ca/ >**

Besides a full line of specialty keyboards Matias carries a selection of high-quality iPod accessories and "Mobile Office" portable computing accessories including stands, computer bags and rigid cases. Matias merchandise information can be found and Matias items can be purchased online from their website at: **< http://matias.ca/products/index.php >.**

Article submitted by **Michael Shaw**
Matias logo courtesy of Matias Corporation.

MaUsE
Macintosh Users East

Macintosh Users East
It's a date! Mark your calendar!
Actually mark a whole bunch of dates, those on which our regular
MaUsE meetings will be held in 2010.
The dates are...
Wednesday, February 24th
Wednesday, March 24th
Wednesday, April 28th
Wednesday, May 26th
Wednesday, June 23rd
Wednesday, September 22nd
Wednesday, October 27th
Wednesday, November 24th

And two bonus 'Evenings with Mac'
Wednesday, April 7th
Wednesday, October 6th

Mark your calendar now and plan at every opportunity
to be a participant in the Macintosh Users East
computer club's meetings.

We meet in Whitby Public Library's meeting room 1A & B
starting at 6.59 p.m. and usually ending around 9.30 p.m
AND...
Remember to check regularly on the web at
www.mause.com
for the latest issue of DoubleClick,
MaUsE's superb monthly online publication.

Take Control eBooks

DoubleClick will be featuring an ebook from Take Control Books every month. These ebooks have been published in PDF format and cover issues related to Mac OS. Because they are in PDF format, these ebooks have a lot of advantages over the traditional paper books. Electronic books are a new experience for many people, but they provide you with a good deal of flexibility that isn't available with printed books. With your purchase of the ebook you get expert advice on various topics but with an Apple perspective. These are the same expert authors of some best-selling print books. The download is immediate and you don't have to leave your house to get it. Because it is paperless it can be purchased for much less than a paper edition. Also, if a new edition of the book comes out, your original purchase of the book allows you to easily update your current copy for free. There are clickable links right in the text so that your book immediately leads to other sources on the same topic. It is readable onscreen which means you can control the size of the print. If you use Preview you can even highlight sections without messing up the book (use a copy of the original if you are worried). You can even print up a paper copy of the book if you feel the need. The catalog is very extensive and can be accessed from http://www.takecontrolbooks.com/catalog. They offer free sample sections of all their ebooks and a money-back guarantee, so try one out anytime. As readers of the DoubleClick, you also now have access to this coupon (CPN90219MUG) which entitles you to a 30% discount on the purchase of a book.

The book featured this month is Take Control of Running Windows on a Mac, 3rd Edition. Using an Intel-based Mac means you can choose the best of both worlds—running Mac OS X or running Windows, but what's the optimal way way to go about it? Cross-platform expert Joe Kissell has distilled untold hours of testing into this ebook to help you understand the pros and cons of Apple's Boot Camp versus virtualization software and to give advice and step-by-step instructions for installing either Windows XP or Windows Vista in Boot Camp, Parallels Desktop 4, VMware Fusion 2, and VirtualBox. There is even a chapter on running Windows without having the license (check out CrossOver which is also reviewed in this DoubleClick).
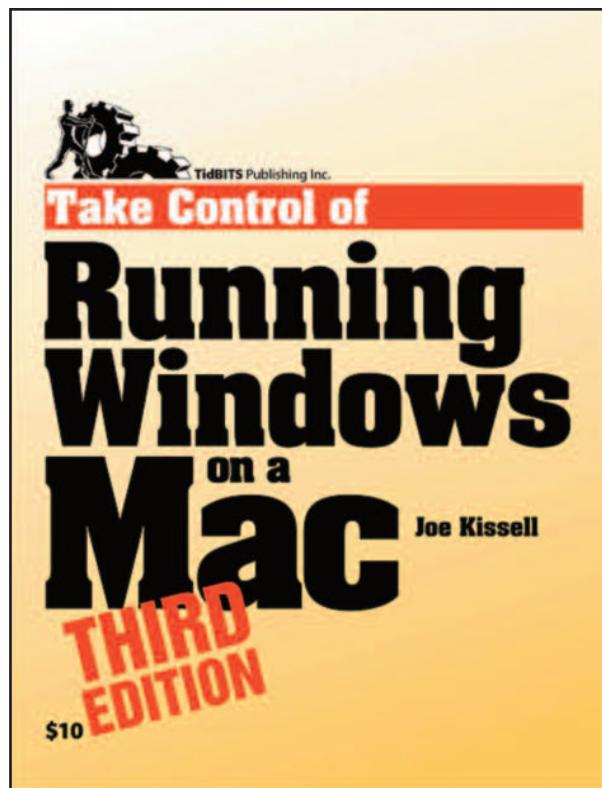
This book tells you everything you need to know about your options for running Windows on a Mac, how to get around common annoyances, and what you should do to protect yourself from the big, bad world of Windows malware.

"Partly because I understand Windows so well, I'd always opt for a Mac if given the choice. But, like it or not, some things I want to do with my computer still require Windows. Even when working on something platform-neutral, such as a Web site, I want to be sure things look and work correctly on Windows. On those occasions when I've needed Windows over the past few years, I've tried everything from running Virtual PC to visiting a library or cybercafé—everything, in other words, short of buying a Windows PC. That was the one step I hoped never to take, but other solutions were frequently awkward, slow, or otherwise annoying. Now, thanks to my Intel-based Mac, I can get the Mac OS X environment I love plus a fast, fully featured Windows installation, all in one box. I can even share files and network connections seamlessly between operating systems." Joe Kissel

This 167-page ebook covers how to handle many aspects of using Windows, including:

• How can I get a copy of Windows XP or Vista that will work on a Mac?
• What are 15 things that you can do in Windows, but not on the Mac?
• How can I set things up so that Windows won't bog down?
• How should I handle partitioning for my Windows installation?
• How do I avoid and handle activation hassles?
• Boot Camp is free with Mac OS X, but what are the pros and cons to using it?
• How can I best run Windows with Boot Camp and virtualization software?
• Should I run VMware Fusion, Parallels Desktop, or VirtualBox?
• What's the best way to right-click in Windows?
• How do I print from my Windows software?
• How do I make my Bluetooth devices work in Windows?
• What is FAT32, and why might it matter to me?
• What are the coolest new features in Parallels Desktop 4?
• What's interesting about the different views in VMware Fusion?

If you are unsure about running Windows on the Mac or which of the five choices you have that would be the best for you then this is the ebook to get. This ebook costs $10.00 normally but using the coupon will make a difference. Check this ebook out and a lot others at www.takecontrolbooks.com.

Article Submitted by **Marcel Dufresne**

Neat Stuff In Gmail

About a century ago (well it seems that long ago) at one of the club's meetings Michael, our beloved president, announced that Google was offering 'Gmail,' a free email service, and suggested that we would find it superior to many of the other free email services then on offer; try it I did, liked it and have been using it ever since.

For a long time I was more or less satisfied to use the default settings in Gmail and then I discovered the 'settings' button (and that in Gmail it meant 'preferences,' I'm a slow learner). I started to customize Gmail to better suite my personal preferences. Here are some of the more obvious settings that I have adopted, and then some of the latest things from Google's lab, interesting stuff that is currently available. Ready to start customizing your Gmail? OK, go to the settings button (in the top right hand side of the Gmail page) and start...

(except spam) with a message that you have composed; i.e. "Thanks for your e-mail. Sorry, I am away from home: I will check for mail from time to time and get back to you when I am able to do so. Thank you for understanding." You can set the date the responder is to start responding and the date it will stop doing so. A most useful option.

OK, those are the some of my choices in the 'General' settings category, but there are more ways to tweak your emails if you wish to do so; at the top of the settings page is a bar with a bunch of other choices for you to consider; let's take a quick look at several:
 • **Themes**: At the extreme right on that settings bar you will find 'Themes'; take a few minutes and see all of the varied and interesting ways you can change the overall appearance of how the Gmails window will look when you log on; as of the day I am writing this article there were 35 themes available for you to choose from; currently I have mine set to 'Zoozimps' because it is always fun to see and those 'imps' actually react to what is happening in your Gmail.

Settings

General | Accounts and Import | Labels | Filters | Forwarding and POP/IMAP | Chat | Web Clips | Labs | Offline | Themes

Gmail display language: English (US) ▾ Show all language options

 • **Message translation**: If you, like me, from time to time receive emails in a language other than your own Gmail will display a 'translate' button, when you click on it your incoming message will automatically be translated into the language of your choice; e.g. Spanish to English etc.
 • **Default font**: Change the default font that is used in your emails from 'Times' to one of your choice; you have eleven fonts to choose from. My own choice is Verdana, a very 'easy to read' font
 • **Date format**. One has a choice of formats and my choice, (logical?) is to have it written the way I would speak it... February First, Twenty-Ten, (Month - Day - Year) how YOU want it written is up to you...
 • **Signature**: Yes, if you wish it will automatically append your name to every email you send, but you can do more, (or less) there is sufficient space for you to add other stuff. I vary my signature from time to time according to what is happening in my life and/or in the world or how I am feeling. Currently my name is followed by 'Whitby,' the town in which I live, 'Ontario' and 'Canada.' If I am feeling particularly patriotic I change it to read "Proud to be a Canadian,' and, at other times when I am feeling crotchety it simply says 'The Old Curmudgeon'; I like that one because some people do not know the meaning of the word and if they take the time to look it up they have learned something. <Grin> Did you??? Look it up that is.
 • **Vacation Responder**: If you are away from your home or office for a period of time, it will automatically respond to every incoming email

Gmail Labs is a testing ground for experimental features that aren't quite ready for prime time; caution, they may change, break or disappear at any time. If you are adventuress go and take a look in this section, it contains a whole bunch of small applications that the programmers at Google are working on in order to make Gmail even more useful; here are some that I am currently using...
 • **Message translation** - Vacation time, already mentioned above.
 • **Undo send**: Oops, hit send too soon? You can stop messages from being sent for a few seconds after you have hit the send button. Got the wrong Bob? – This one can save you embarrassment. Have you ever addressed an email too quickly, and included Bob (your boss) instead of Bob (your friend) by accident? If you're emailing more than two people at once Gmail will check if you meant to include Bob Smith rather than Bob Jones based on the groups of people you email most often. (Thanks to Gmail for the previous two descriptions.)

Final Thought: If you are not already using Gmail, maybe you should consider doing so. It is a very good system and you can use all those neat features that I have written about plus many more waiting there for you to discover. Want to find out more? Go to www.gmail.com and learn all about it; and Yes! It's free.

Settings

General | **Accounts and Import** | **Labels** | **Filters** | **Forwarding and POP/IMAP** | **Chat** | **Web Clips** | **Labs** | **Offline** | **Themes**

Language: Gmail display language: English (US) [▼] **Show all language options**

Maximum page size: Show 50 [▼] conversations per page

Keyboard shortcuts:
Learn more
- ⦿ Keyboard shortcuts off
- ○ Keyboard shortcuts on

External content:
- ⦿ Always display external content (such as images) sent by trusted senders - Learn more
- ○ Ask before displaying external content

Browser connection:
Learn more
- ⦿ Always use https
- ○ Don't always use https

My picture:
Learn more
Change picture ○ Visible to everyone
⦿ Visible only to people I can chat with

Postscript: HTTPS – Increased security for you.

Today (January 15th) I learned from Michael that Gmail is making information in your emails more secure by changing from HTTP to HTTPS. Here is what Gmail has to say on that topic:

"We've recently made the 'Always use https' setting the default behavior in Gmail (the default used to be http). Here's some background: If you sign in to Gmail via a nonsecure Internet connection, like a public wireless or non-encrypted network, your Google account may be more vulnerable to hijacking. Non-secure networks make it easier for someone to impersonate you and gain full access to your Google account, including any sensitive data it may contain like bank statements or online log-in credentials. Accordingly, we enable the 'Always use https' option in Gmail by default. HTTPS, or Hypertext Transfer Protocol Secure, is a secure protocol that provides authenticated and encrypted communication." And they add this warning: If you use a public computer to check your email, it's also important to end each of your Gmail sessions by clicking Sign out at the top of any Gmail page and to close all Gmail browser windows. After reading that information I immediately went to the 'Browser connection' section of my Gmail settings and switched to HTTPS and thus gained more peace of mind; in my mind another valid reason to choose and use Gmail.

Article submitted by **Stan Wild**

New !!
Updates From Alien Skin

If you are one of the lucky MaUsE members who has recently won a copy of Alien Skin Blow Up 2, Bokeh, Eye Candy 6, or Snap Art 2 in one of our MaUsE Raffles you should check on the Alien Skin website for the updater to your software. In fact, if you have won any of the software titles pictured below you should do it. Alien Skin is constantly improving their software in response to users' requests so make sure you check to see if there is something for you.

AKVIS Magnifier

In this world we are constantly being told that "Bigger is Better". To that end I just received the latest version of **AKVIS Magnifier**. If you are wondering what that is, I'll tell you: it is a sophisticated tool to increase image resolution in digital photos. If you want a big print then this program is for you. The program allows printing large images at a higher resolution. This photo enlargement product allows you to take a photo and enlarging it to a super-high resolution of up to a maximum of 30,000 x 30,000 pixels, making a 100 x 100 inch (2.5 x 2.5 meter) poster easily printable at typographic quality of 300 dots per inch (dpi). Larger formats are viewed from a distance to suit their size and often don't require that high a resolution. For a print that is 8 x10 inches you should view it at about three feet, arms length away from your eyes. Because you do not need to use the maximum resolution you can make even larger enlargements of 200 x 200 inches which is a whooping 5 x 5 meter print. So if you need to print larger then your home printer can handle, you could use this program to create the image and then have a commercial printer remake your poster for you.

In the days before digital, if you wanted a bigger print of your photo, you sent your film negative or slide off to a photo lab where they would proceed to put it in an enlarger and project a bigger picture onto a piece of photographic paper. This process had it's limitations, one of which was the grain of the film used. To get faster films the manufactures used bigger pieces of silver iodide. This was embedded in the film and was known as grain. When you enlarged the photo the grain enlarged as well and became more apparent. With today's digital cameras you would know grain as "Noise". This is most noticeable in areas where you have one constant colour. You also have a problem with loss of sharpness at the edges of each pixel. This is quite apparent when you size your image above 100%.

AKVIS Magnifier comes as two separate styles, Standalone and Plug-in, for both operating systems, Mac or Windows. It has a ten day free trial period, after which time you will need to decide which licence you want to buy. The functionality of the program depends on the license type. During the ten day test period you can try all the options so you can choose the license you like.

The four functionality types are: Home Plug-in ($129), Home Standalone ($129), Home Deluxe ($165) or Business ($249). Your choice of license will affect which features are available in AKVIS Magnifier.

AKVIS Magnifier can work independently as a standalone program as well as a plug-in to Adobe Photoshop. Both variants support the various colour modes: Red Green Blue (RGB), Grayscale, Cyan Magenta,Yellow and Black (CMYK), Lab; or any of the following bit channels, 8 or 16 or 32 bits per channel. The standalone program works with all of the following formats for your photos, JPEG, PNG, BMP, TIFF formats. It does not do the "Raw" format.

The plug-in version of AKVIS Magnifier is compatible with Adobe Photoshop and Photoshop Elements. In Photoshop the Magnifier plug-in supports Batch Processing that allows you to automatically convert a series of images. Just create an Action in Photoshop and apply the plug-in with the same settings to a folder full of images. The plug-in works with any one-layered image, which can be opened by Photoshop in supported colour modes: RGB, Grayscale 8 or 16 bit. It is imperative that the layers must be merged before using the plug-in.

The parts of the AKVIS Magnifier workspace are displayed in the picture below. The left part of AKVIS Magnifier's workspace is taken up by the Image Window with the tabs Before and After above the photo you have chosen. The Before tab displays the original image, the After tab shows the results. You can compare the original and the resulting images by just left-clicking on any point of the image. The right side holds the Navigation Window and the Settings panel.

In the upper right portion of the Workspace window you will find the Navigator Window, (as shown at right), where you can see the reduced copy of the image. The red frame shows the part of the image that is now visible in the Image Window; the areas outside the frame will be shaded. Drag the frame to make other parts of the image visible. To move the frame, bring the cursor inside the frame, press the left mouse button, and keeping it pressed, then move the frame in the Navigation window. Underneath the reduced copy of the image you have a scale field which has a drop down menu, that show frequently used sizes. The scale goes from 25% to 400%. You can also type in a scale if you need to. To the right of the scale field box is a slider for increasing or decreasing the image in the Image Window. You can also use the + or - buttons for increasing or decreasing the image, or do the "Command" + and "Command" - from the keyboard.

Under the navigation window is the Settings panel. The setting panel is used for setting parameters for advanced image processing. To avoid distortion of details, it is recommended to scale the image to its original size (100%) before changing the settings of the program. There are four groups of settings: New Size, Parameters, Unsharp Mask and Presets. By using the hot-key combination Option+underlined letter you can quickly move the focus into the corresponding entry field. You can also use the mouse. The Lower half of the settings panel is where you set the new Parameters. Here is the explanation of the different parameters:

Sharpen Edges (scale = 0-100). This parameter increases the sharpness and intensity of an objects' edges.

Edge Smoothness (scale = 1–8). This parameter smoothes colour gradients on the border of contrasting colour zones. At high values of this parameters the border looks softer. At low values of the parameter the border line looks uneven and irregular. Edge Smoothness is well visible on an image with contrasting colour zones.

Simplicity (scale = 0–400). This parameter sets the level of detail on the final image. The higher the value of the parameter, the more simplified and artificial the result will look; the lower the value – the more details will be visible. At the same time sharpness/smoothness of the image is influenced by the size and the scale of the image. At high values of the Sharpen Edges parameter, the difference between the original and the simplified image increases.

Microline (scale = 0-400). This parameter singles out thin (1-2 pixels) contrasting lines on an image with a low resolution. The default value provides a satisfactory result, but it is possible to adjust it. At low values of the parameter the lines are thinner and the edges are sharper; At higher values, the lines get a bit thicker and this gives you ragged edges.

Grain (scale = 0-25). The parameter adds slight Noise to the image. It is helpful in case of an over smoothed images, which is an image processed with a high values of the Sharpen Edges parameter and a high level of Simplicity.

Unsharp Mask. This selection sharpens the image by increasing contrast between the pixels. When the check-box is enabled, the program compares the resulting image with its blurred copy and if the pixel of the image contrasts with the pixel of the blurred copy, the contrast is increased; otherwise, the pixel stays unchanged. In this way the program processes all image pixels.It helps to understand that the level of contrast between the pixels is regulated by the parameter Amount. The values of the parameter range is between 0 and 250%. At 100% the contrast is increased twice, at 200% - the contrast is increased by 4 times, etc.

The **Radius** shows a number of pixels around a pixel to be affected by blurring. While 1.5 pixels is a recommended blurring radius, the latter can vary between 0 and 50 pixels.
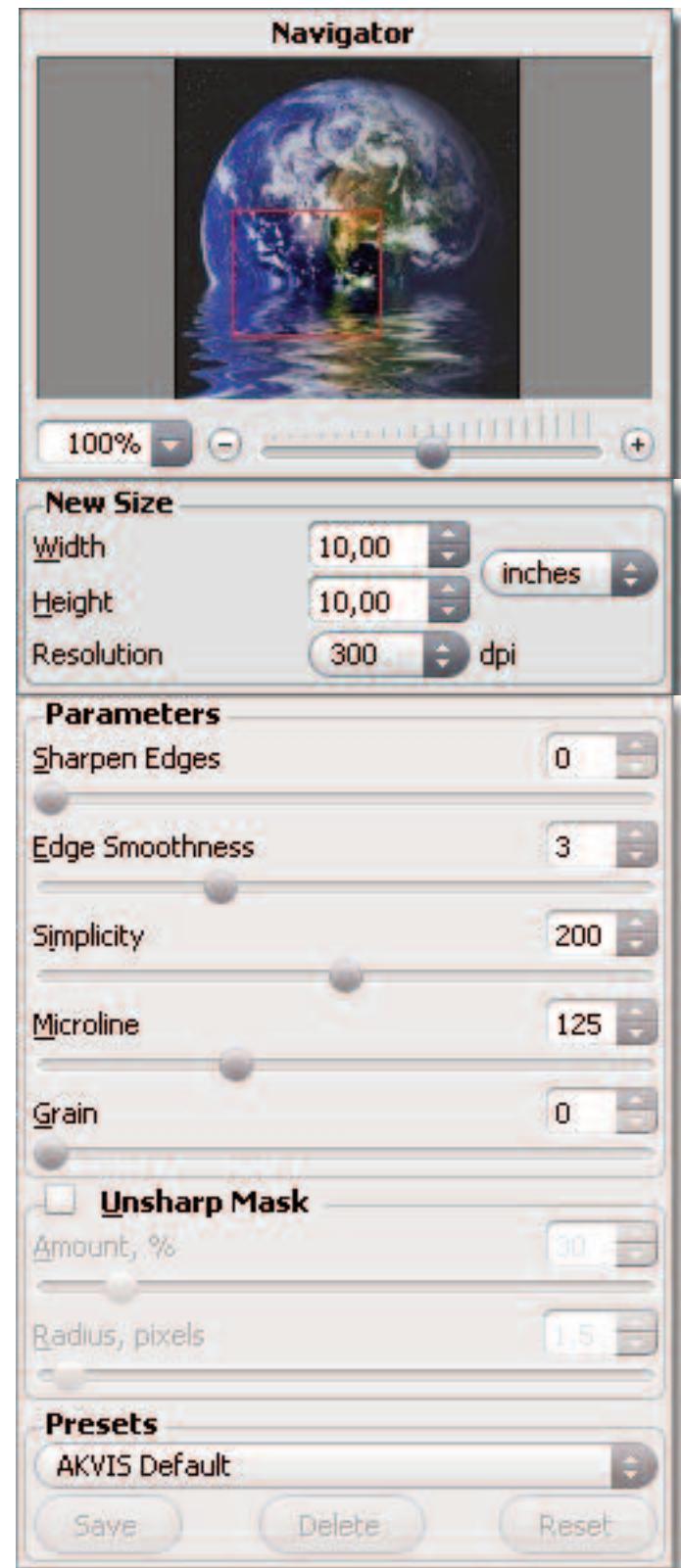
Picture #1

Picture #2

MaUsE
Macintosh Users East
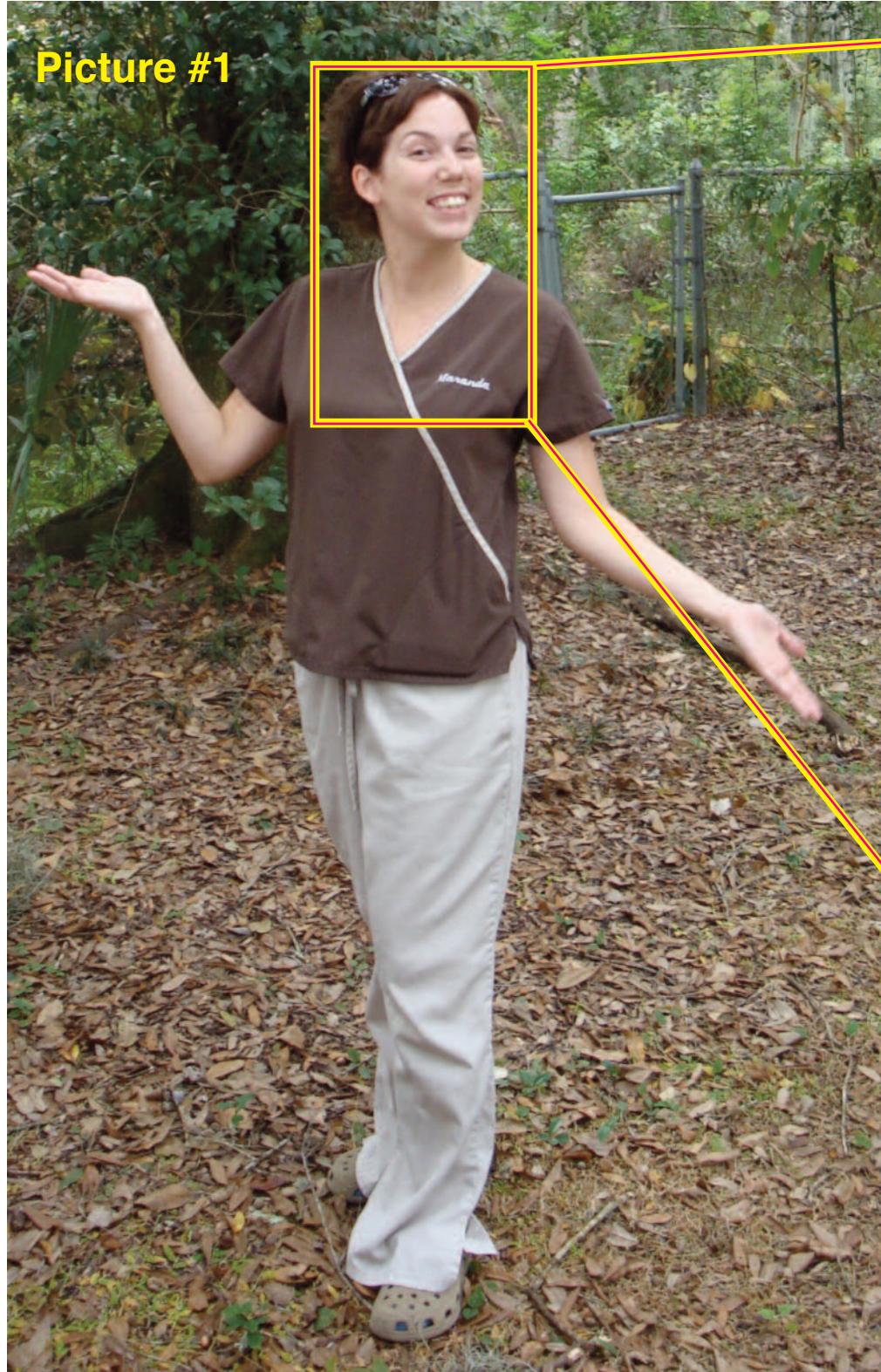
Picture #1 is like the standard outdoor photo that you may take of your family or friends. As you can see it does not show you just the important information. There is a lot of unwanted information cluttering the photo. Perhaps what I really want is a head and shoulders shot...

By using Akvis Magnifier I was able to blow up this photo to the desired size and still keep the details sharp. Normal enlarging would blur out or pixelate the fine detail and make the photo look shabby. As you can see in **Picture #2** the head and shoulder shot extracted with Akvis Magnifier has keep the detail and you can even read the name of my cousin on her shirt.

It is possible to save the settings you like as a preset and use them in the future. To save a preset, enter a name for the preset into the Presets field and press the Save button. The settings of the selected preset will be used as the default settings. If you change the values of the parameters, you can always come back to the factory default settings of the preset with a click on the Reset button. To process an image with the settings of a certain preset, you should select it from the drop down menu and press the button. To delete a preset, select it from the list and press Delete.

Increasing an image's size is a resource-intensive process and requires a substantial amount of RAM memory capacity and 2-3 Gigabites (Gb) of free space on your hard drive for swapping-files. When increasing a 5-10 megapixel image to 400%, the image area increases by 16 times + 200 to 300 Megabites (Mb). in this case the processing will consume about 1.5 Gb RAM. This makes for huge files, and does take time to process. Now that you have enlarged your image, you are going to want to print it. In the standalone version you select the button for printing. This will bring up the Print dialog box seen at right.

The left part of the Print dialog box is the preview area where the current position of the image on the page is shown. On the right side of the dialog window the following print settings can be adjusted:
• Printer. If your computer is connected to a local network with many printers or if it is connected to many output devices itself, you will need to choose one of the available printers to print your image. Choose the desired print resolution from the Print Resolution dropdown list. The available choices will be based on those available for the printer you have chosen.
• Orientation of the printed image. There are two types of orientation available - Album and Portrait. Album corresponds to the horizontal page orientation (Landscape),   while Portrait - corresponds to the vertical orientation of the paper.
• Print Size. To change the size of the printed image, adjust the parameters Scale, Width, Height and Fit to Page. These parameters have no effect on the image itself, just on the printed version. You can change the size of the printed image by entering any value in % (any value less than 100% will result in a smaller print size, and any value larger than 100% - will result in a larger print size), or by entering new values in Width and Height. If you want the size of the image to be adjusted to the paper size, then just select Fit to Page.
• Move To. Choose the position of the image on the page by clicking on one of the the nine green arrows.

The size of the printed image and its orientation can also be selected manually. A frame with markers is displayed around the image in the preview window. To change the size of the image move the cursor to

one of the corner markers or to a side (the cursor changes in shape to a double sided arrow) and drag the marker or side. To change the position of the image on the page, bring the cursor over the image, press the left mouse button, and move the cursor.

Clicking the Page Setup button opens a dialog window in which you can choose the size of the paper and its orientation, as well as the print margins.
To print an image with the chosen parameters, press the Print button. To cancel and close the printing dialog window press the Cancel button.

This program is great for making enlargements and also reductions, if you have a need to.
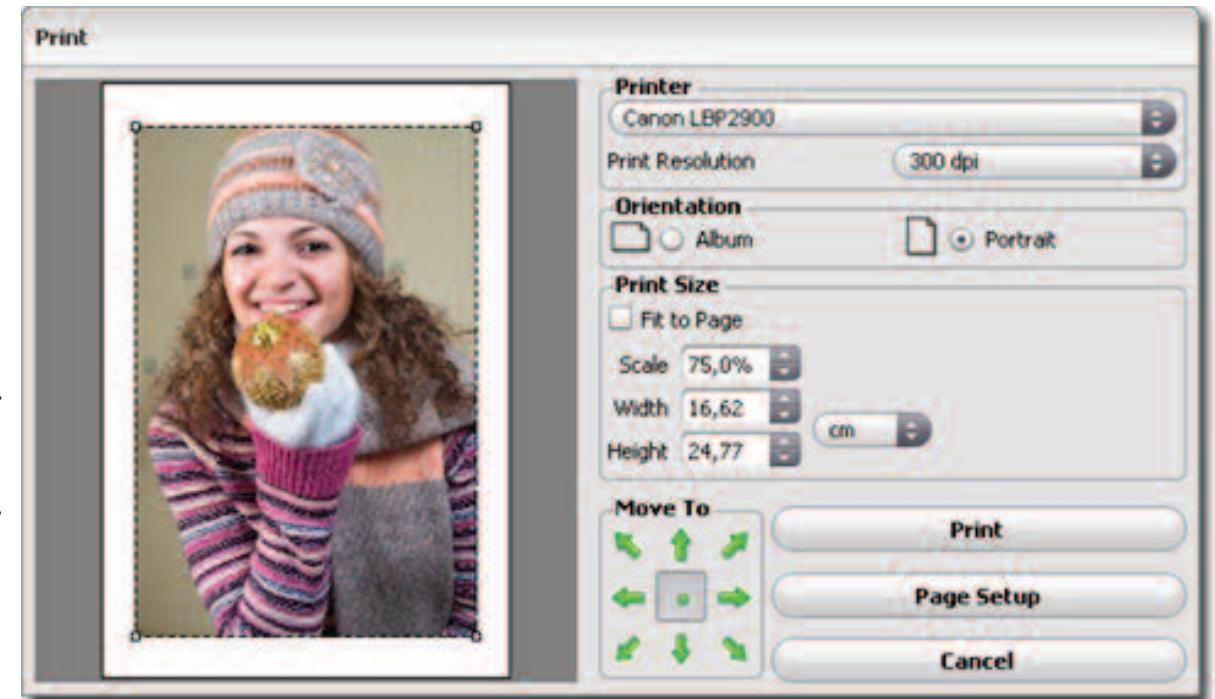
Submitted by **Kevin Livesey** ✂

Fujitsu
ScanSnap

With the advent of computers, there were hopes that the use of trees for paper could be decreased. After all, data could be stored on the computer - no need for all that paper. Change, as always, is a very slow process. The trees have not yet been spared. We seem to require a hardcopy of all our data, as well as a digital. It is as though we do not trust the data to be saved in the digital format. We do not trust that new fangled machine. We still rely on the old tried and true hardcopy. This train of thought will eventually change. The younger generation is much more comfortable with going paperless. Witness the rise of the Kindle eBook reader and hopefully the Tablet from Apple. Books may eventually be a thing of the past as literature makes the switch to digital.

To help us make this big switch to paperless, we need a reliable means of taking the paper copies that we now have and changing them to digital. This is the function of a scanner. There are two major types to be found:
 • There is the older flat bed kind where you need to lift the cover of a large glass top machine. Next you need to place your page in exactly the right spot to ensure a good 90° straight reproduction. Once the lid was closed, the scanner would then slowly scan across the bottom of that glass top and send the reproduction to your computer for saving. The next page would require you to lift up the cover, replace your first page with the second and repeat the procedure. The last time I used my old flat bed copier, it took over an hour to get copies of a twenty page booklet into PDF format so that I could share these with my class.
 • The second type of scanner now available is a top loading type. In this case the pages to be scanned are fed in through the top of the scanner just as the pages of a printer would be fed in. In fact, there are many multi-function printers that will also do scans. I have found that the speed and the quality of the reproductions usually vary directly with the price and indirectly with the number of functions. In other words, if you want to get good quick scans, then buy a dedicated scanner, not a printer that will also act as a scanner.

The Fujitsu ScanSnap S1500M is one of the best top loading scanners out there. It is a compact colour duplex scanner for the Mac. The 'M' at the end of the code denotes its Macintosh use. With one push of a button your document becomes an easily searchable PDF file. The intelligent paper feed allows you to accidentally put the page in a bit crooked, but come out perfect.
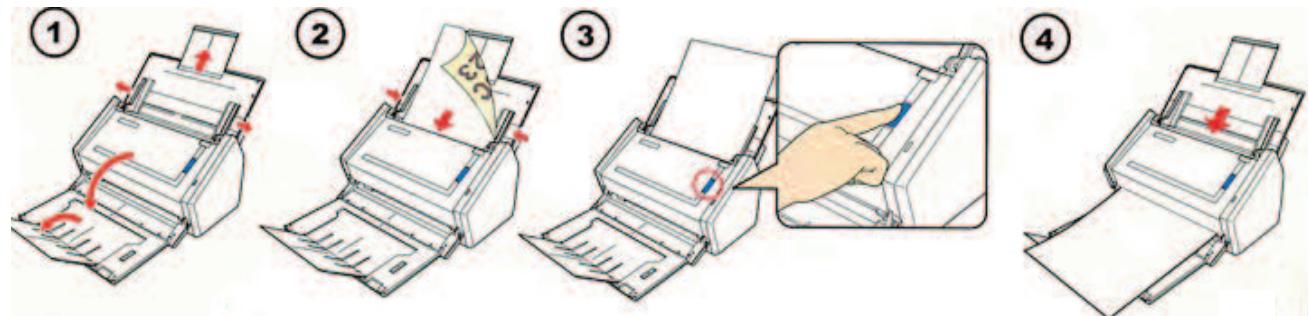
Few scanners can match its speed; it can duplex 20 colour pages per minute. You can load in a stack of 50 pages at a time. The task that took me over an hour now would take less than a minute. And it looks great, a pearly white colour, sitting beside any Apple computer. It folds up into a 28 x 18 x 15 cm compact shape when not in use. To turn it on, simply open up the top cover. There are no on/off buttons to search for. With the top cover open, documents are now ready to be fed into the top slot. Paper jams, if they occur, present no problem either. A lever on the front allows access to the inner workings and paper can be removed without having to move the scanner.

The ScanSnap S1500M provides Mac users with an effective way to greatly reduce paper clutter, storage space, and security risk associated with unmanaged paperwork at home or at the office. There is a lot more that can be done with documents that have been scanned. For instance, they can be stored in multiple areas or they can be found so much faster. How much time have you spent searching for a specific receipt? This becomes such a simple task with the Mac's capability to search anywhere on the computer.

The ScanSnap Manager, which can be accessed from the Dock and has a half dozen choices, allows the scanned documents to be quickly placed exactly where they belong. Scan to folder, puts the PDF in the folder that you have predetermined. Scan to email opens up your Mail program and attaches the document to a new email. Scan to print immediately sends the scan to the printer, bypassing the save to folder option. You can scan to Standard which sends the document to Adobe Acrobat or Preview. You can even scan directly to iPhoto. There are options to scan to Word or Excel. These do not work since if you don't have these two applications. I hope in the future that Fujitsu is intending on incorporating Pages and Numbers into the scan options since these are the Mac equivalents.

The scans are somewhat limited to PDF or jpegs. However, I can't think of any other format I would like my scans saved as. I would think that if you needed them in another format, you could easily take the

jpeg and convert it with other applications. The OCR (Optical Character Recognition) capabilities of the software means that you can quickly edit parts of a document, even if you only have a hardcopy of it. No need to retype the whole page. (This does require the use of Word or Excel for Mac). The only other draw back I could think of is really a problem with any top loading scanner. You could not scan a book without tearing it apart, since only single pages can be fed in through the top. Also, boxes or other 3d-shapes can't be scanned.

ScanSnap is smart. It has intelligent paper feed detection. It knows when a document should be scanned in colour, grayscale or black and white. It knows if it should increase the resolution on small documents for readability. It has auto page size detection, anything from business cards and up. It has auto crop, de-skew, and content-based rotation. It can tell if it has to scan both sides of a document or not. If there is anything on the back of the document, it will be scanned with no reduction in speed. You direct it to scan only one side if you so wish. It can detect small documents intermixed in a stack and scan them appropriately. Smaller documents such as receipts and business cards are scanned at higher resolution to make them more discernible.

Remember how much time it took to scan olds photos into your computer. Now you can put a stack of photos in to be scanned. Choose iPhoto from the ScanSnap Manager and when the blue start button is pushed the photos are immediately sent to iPhoto where they are shown as the Last Import. Hours of time saved. My wife could not believe how simple it was when she started scanning in old photos from an album. She remembered using a flat bed scanner a few years ago and kept putting off further such projects. Once she saw the speed and facility of using ScanSnap, she commenced again scanning the family photos to label and preserve them for future generations.

As a bonus, besides containing a DVD with Adobe Acrobat Pro 8, the install disc also contains the application Cardiris which recognizes the print on business cards. You can scan them and have the data sent to Address Book. No more retyping of your business contacts. The OCR extracts the data from the image and attempts to place the data in the correct spots. Think of the time saved. You can set up what is called a profile, which is a saved set of preferences, that you like to use for certain documents. For instance, you can have a profile called 'Pictures' which will be one sided, jpegs, saved in a a folder of your choice.
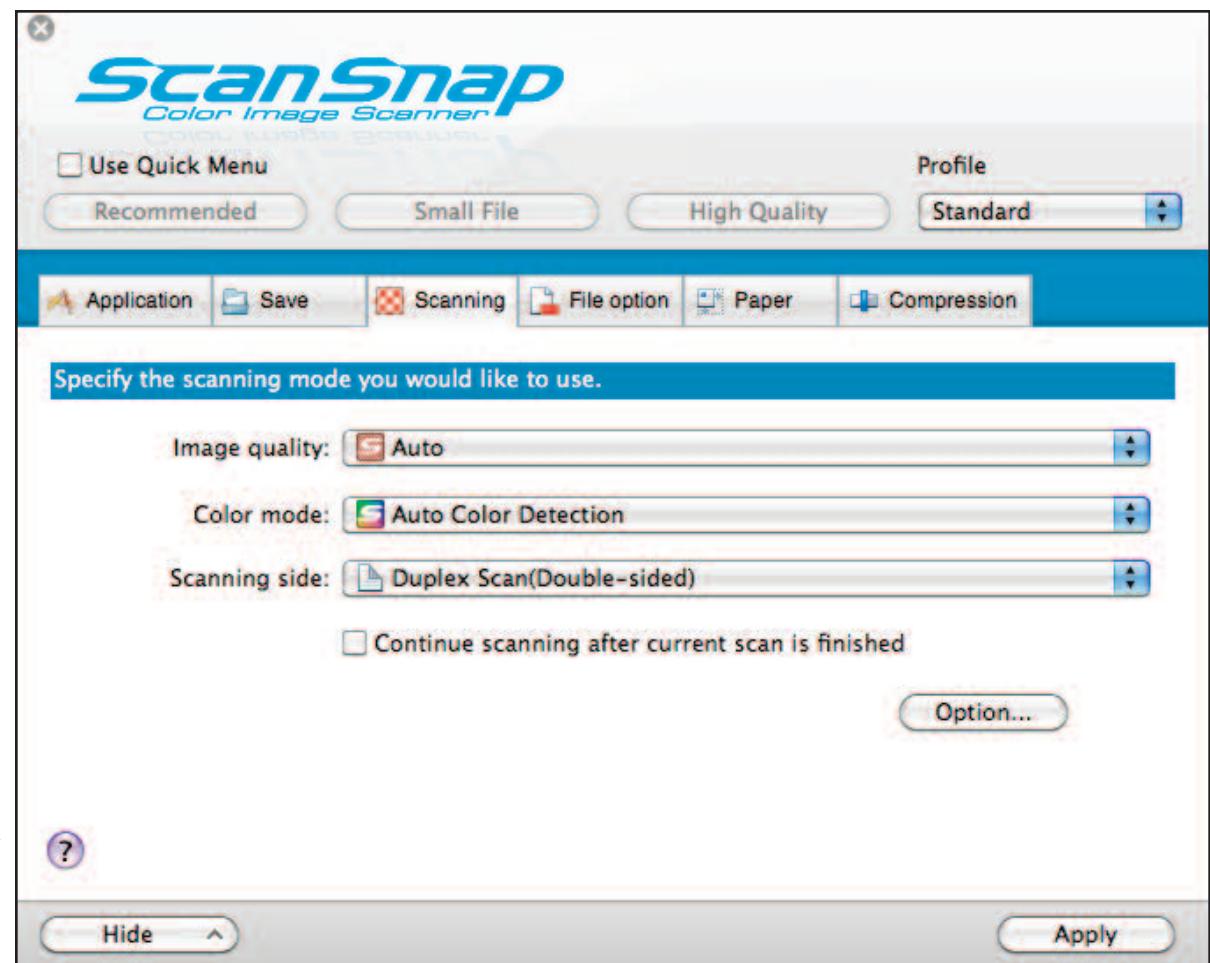
All your profiles are part of the ScanSnap manager options that pop up from the dock. These are thus right at your fingertips. All of this is very well explained in the User's Manual that comes on the install disc. The ScanSnap manager also has a lot of helpful windows that explain its choices. I had absolutely no problem scanning documents and photos without reading the manual.

You can have a look at more of the details for the ScanSnap from http://www.fujitsu.com/us/services/computing/peripherals/scanners/scansnap/scansnap-s1500.html. The minimum requirement is MAC OS 10.4.3 and it is Snow Leopard ready. It can be bought in Canada for ~$500. This makes it pricey but take note that it does includes Adobe Acrobat Pro which is an expensive application on its own. In terms of speed, functions and ease of use you won't find a better machine. It has been called by some the most Apple like peripheral not made by Apple. Whether for home or business use, the ScanSnap is top of the line.

Article Submitted by **Marcel Dufresne**

R-Tools Technology Inc.
R-Studio for Mac

Another data recover program. And yet something very different. Lately we have looked at two of the easiest data recovery programs around, Sub-RosaSoft's **FileSalvage 7** and Prosoft Engineering's **Data Rescue 3.** Now we are going to look at one that is defi-nitely not for the faint of heart. **R-Stu-dio for Mac** from R-Tools Technology Inc. is a completely different kettle of fish. This is the program for people who know more about computers than I do and a lot more than the aver-age Mac user does. **R-Studio for Mac** is ideal for regular users and also fully featured enough for all you **intensely nerdish** Mac users .

R-Studio for Mac comes in three flavours: PowerPC, Intel and Uni-versal. If you want to try out a demo of the program you can download the software from the R-Tools Technology web-site at: **http://www.data-recovery-macintosh.com/Mac_Recovery_Down-load.shtml**

R-Studio for Mac Features:
• Host OS: Mac OS X Snow Leopard 10.6, Mac OS 10.4 Tiger, Mac OS Server 10.5 Tiger, Mac OS 10.5 Leopard and Mac OS Server 10.5 Leopard running on a computer with Intel, PowerPC G5 or PowerPC G4 processors.
• Supported file systems: HFS, HFS+, HFSX, FAT12, FAT16, FAT32, exFAT, NTFS, NTFS5, Ext2 FS, Ext3 FS, Ext4 FS, UFS1, UFS2 and UFS BigEndian.
• Data recovery over the Network*. Files can be recovered on network computers running: Win95/98/ME/NT/2000/XP/2003/Vista/2008/Win-dows 7, Macintosh, Linux and UNIX.
• Support for known file types. R-Studio for Mac searches for files with known typical features of their structures allowing the user to search for files on devices with unknown files systems, including an HD, CD, DVD, floppy disk, Compact Flash Card, USB drive, ZIP drive, Memory Sticks, and other removable media. Support for known file types is the main and mandatory option for recovery data from HFS, HFS+ parti-tions.
• Expandable Known File Types. New file signatures can be added to the list of known file types by the end user.
• File Sorting. Found files and folders can now be easily sorted by the original structure, file extension or file creation/modification time.
• Scan process visualization. While scanning an object, R-Studio Mac graphically shows items that have been found, including files of known types, HFS/HFS+ volume headers, HFS/HFS+ BTree+ nodes, FAT and NTFS MFT records, boot records, etc.
• Mass file recovery support.

• APM, Basic and GPT support. R-Studio for Mac supports all three partition schemes used to define the low-level organization of data on disks formatted for use with Macin-tosh computers.
• Dynamic disk support.
• HFSJ and HFSX volumes support.
• Software RAID, volume set, and stripe set support. Support for various unusual RAID configurations. Parameters like block size and order, offsets, and even the number of stripe blocks can be explicitly specified. Custom RAID configurations can be saved.
• Recognizes localized names.
• Hardware RAID, volume set, and stripe set support.
• Creates image files for an entire hard drive, logical disk, or its part. Such image files can be processed like regular disks. Images can be either simple exact object copies (Plain images) compatible with the previous versions of R-Studio, or compressed images that can be compressed, split into several parts, and password-protected. Such images are fully compatible with the images created by R-Drive Image, but incompatible with the previous versions of R-Studio.
• Recovers files on damaged or deleted partitions.
• Recovers data forks, resource forks, finder information and UNIX file system permissions.
• Recovers compressed, encrypted files and alternative data streams from NTFS partitions.
• Recovered files can be saved on any (including network) disks visi-ble by the host operating system.
• A hexadecimal disk and file editor supporting HFS/HFS+ data forks, resource forks and NTFS file non-resident attribute editing.
• Patterns (or templates) in the hexadecimal editor allowing for pars-ing the data according to specific data structure. Such patterns may be custom-created.
• File preview. Most of the graphic file types can be previewed to esti-mate recovery chances.

In order to put R-Studio for Mac through its paces I started, (like I usually do), with an empty USB flash drive. I copied a bunch of images onto it (39 pictures totaling 40 Megabytes) and then deleted the images by selecting them and using Com-mand-Delete. This moved the files to the Trash. Then I emptied the Trash to simulate an acciden-tal file deletion. I created an empty folder on my Desktop (Save to Here!!). I verified that there were no files showing on the flash drive and then I used the **R-Studio** application to see if it could find and salvage any or all of the the 39 deleted files. The scan took **only 53.3** seconds to churn through a 1 Gigabyte flash drive and produced an

Avery DesignPro
1.03 GB, 997 MB free

Save To Here !!
No items
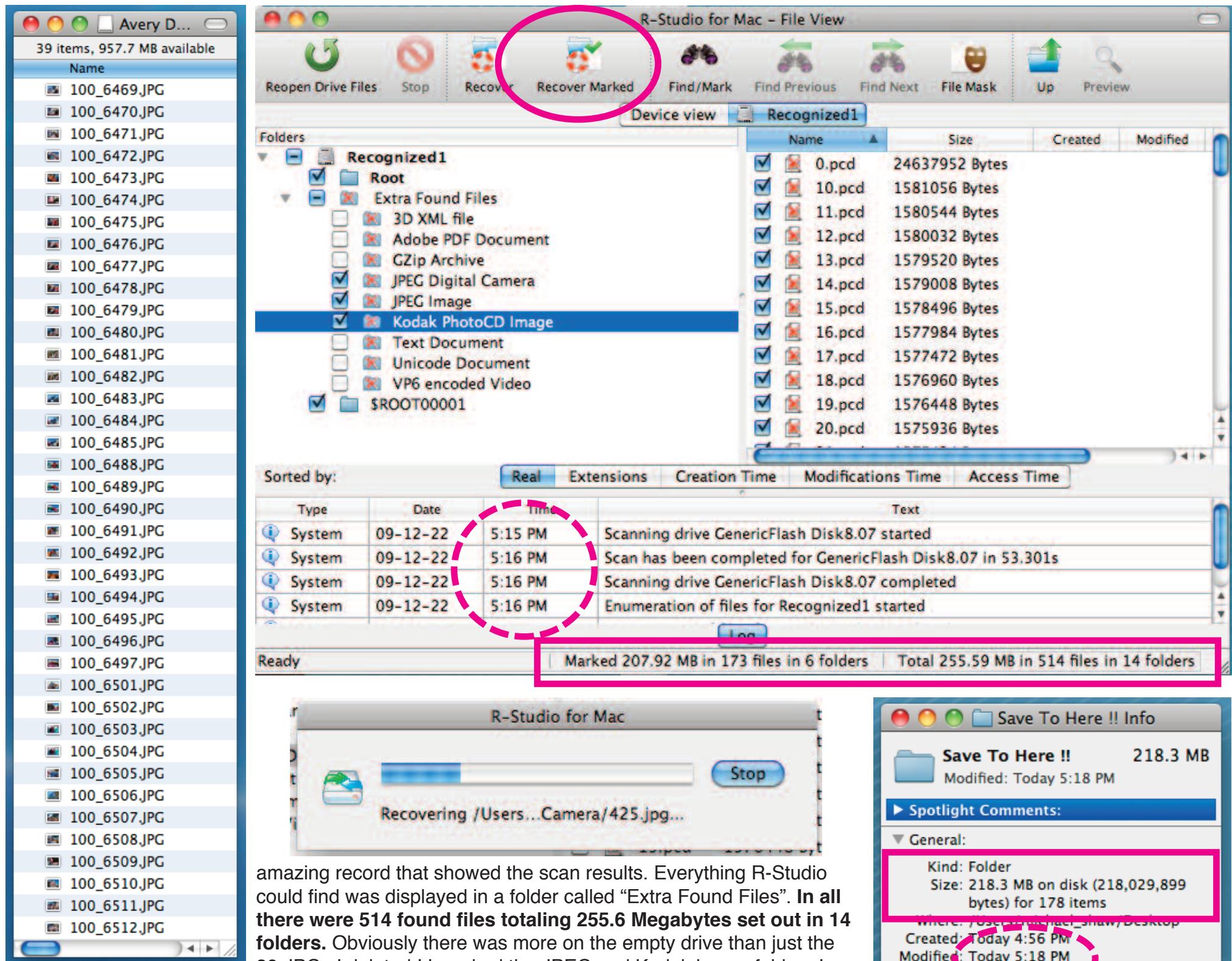
amazing record that showed the scan results. Everything R-Studio could find was displayed in a folder called "Extra Found Files". **In all there were 514 found files totaling 255.6 Megabytes set out in 14 folders.** Obviously there was more on the empty drive than just the 39 JPGs I deleted ! I marked the JPEG and Kodak image folders I was interested in and found that they totaled about 208 Megabytes of pictures. I clicked on the "Recover Marked" button. R-Studio started processing through the scan information and sending information to the "Save to Here!!" Desktop folder. By the time it was finished R-Studio had rescued 178 items totaling over 218 megs of image files.

As you can see from a careful examination of these pictures, I began to scan the drive at 5:15 PM, completed the scan at 5:16 PM, and had all of the rescued files sorted and salvaged to my destination by 5:18 PM. Not only is R-Studio for Mac incredibly thorough, it is also incredibly fast. To verify that the salvaged files were actually usable I investigated the contents of the saved folders.
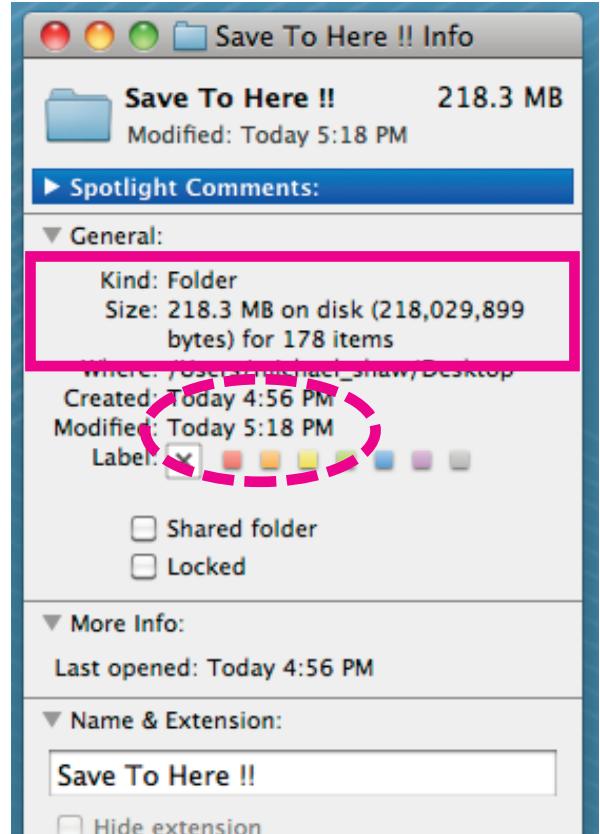
I found that the 39 items I was using as the test files were all present in the Digital Camera folder. Also included in the same folder were another 60 older digital photographic images that had been on the drive and erased several months ago.

Looking at **R-Studio for Mac** so soon after looking at Prosoft and Sub-RosaSoft data recovery software really brings out the differences in these programs. For a true understanding of the powerful advanced features built into **R-Studio for Mac** it really is necessary to know more than 99% of the computer-literate population and spend some serious time, possibly a few months, with the R-Studio for Mac user manual, (a truly astoundingly dense 113-page PDF that defies comprehension unless the user is technical in the extreme). For what I did with it I had no trouble successfully operating the program within a half-hour of downloading it but I know that I did not scratch the surface of what this program can do.

Conclusion:
R-Studio for Mac found everything I was looking for **and a whole lot more**. R-Studio for Mac definitely recovers files. **It is the most complex and powerful software of its type I have ever encountered** and R-Tools claims that it can work on EVERYTHING. The Macintosh version I downloaded was for "For Local and Network Recovery" but there are also downloadable "R-Studio Emergency ISO Image" files on the R-Tools Technology website that can be used to create bootable network and local disks for PowerPC-based New World Macintosh (since 2001) and compatible UNIX computers/servers or for Intel-based Macintosh, Windows, Linux and UNIX computers/servers. This really is a complete professional data-recovery system.

In order to use **R-Studio for Mac** you need to have a Macintosh computer with an Intel, PowerPC G5 or PowerPC G4 processor and be running Tiger, Leopard or Snow Leopard. And you need to have some place other than the source big enough to save files to. Administrative privileges are required to install and run **R-Studio for Mac**. The program only costs US $80.00 and you can try it before you buy it. The R-Tools website is HUGE with excellent help files and lots of good advice and information.

Submitted by **Michael Shaw**
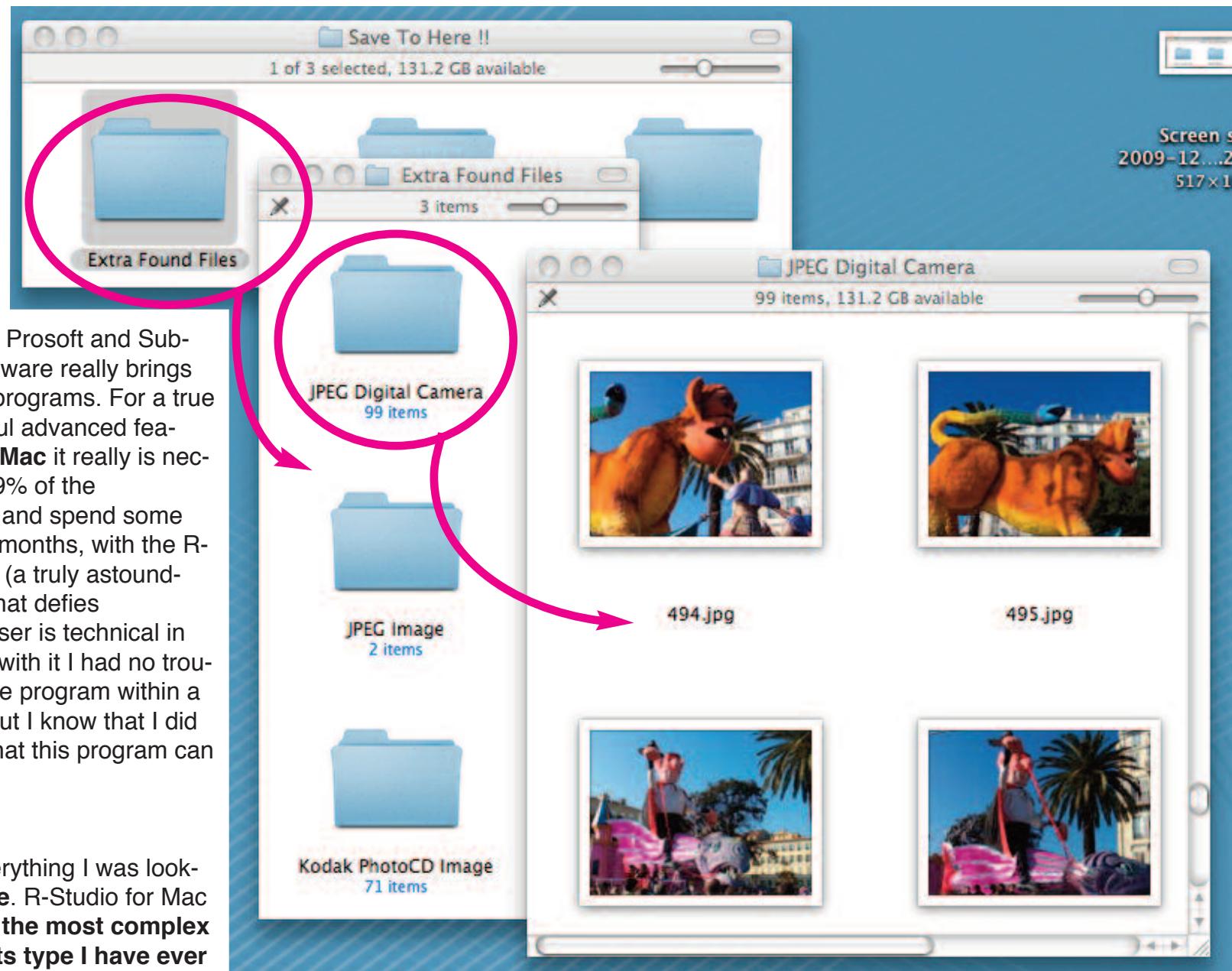
R-Studio for Mac will recover files:
• Removed by virus attack or power failure;
• After the partition with the files was reformatted, even for different file system;
• Deleted from your computer;
• When the partition structure on a hard disk was changed or damaged. In this case, R-Studio for Mac can scan the hard disk trying to find previously existing partitions and recover files from found partitions.
• From hard disk with bad sectors. R-Studio for Mac can first copy the entire disk or its part into an image file and then process the image file. This is especially useful when new bad sectors are constantly appearing on the hard disk, and remaining information must be immediately saved.

r-tools
technology
www.r-tt.com

Prizmo 1.1
From Creaceed

Like the **Prizmo 1.1** Welcome screen says, this little application packs a decent punch for your buck. For US $40.00 this program will appeal to both the photographers amongst you and those looking for easy to use OCR capability.

In case you didn't know, OCR, which stands for 'Optical Character Recognition', refers to the ability to enable your Mac to look at a scanned image of some text and be able to edit it. In other words, instead of just being a picture of the text, it can actually read it as real text which you can then cut and paste, etc., as though you'd just typed it. Which for the slower typists, like me, is a brilliant idea because it saves hours of copying text by typing it word for word.

Prizmo, which is compatible with Leopard and Snow Leopard, has clever abilities that can be basically divided into two parts.

First, (for everyone) there's the OCR technology. It has an adjustable grid for easily selecting the text to be recognized; result preview (interactive text skimming of recognized text areas); several file types for saving the results (PDF, RTF, TXT); spotlight indexable results... and it can do all this in 10 languages!

Second, (for the photographers) you can use it to correct perspective and lens distortions. It's quick and easy, you just drag your JPG on to the Welcome Screen and go from there.

But there's more…
But now for all you shutter-bugs and non-photographers alike, this software can perform a really neat trick. It will accept a JPG photo of any text taken by any camera and be able to convert it, via OCR, to editable text. This means you can take a snap of a street sign, a menu, a magazine that doesn't fit in your scanner, then drag the JPG to the Prizmo screen and produce an editable text document. So in fact, (I know you're ahead of me), you don't need a scanner at all.

For all of you, before buying a scanner or if you're on the road away from home (scannerless), this software is worth checking out. Also, when you take the snap you don't even have to be exactly square on to the object. Remember the photographers using it to correct lens distortion and perspective (correcting for the sides of tall buildings appearing to get closer together at the top), well this is used to square up any oblique distortion of the text image so the OCR will be able to recognize the letters and numbers as, well, letters and numbers.

I have tried **Prizmo 1.1** with a basic test, taking a snap of an article in a magazine resting on my desk, uploading it to my Mac's desktop and then dragging the icon to the Prizmo screen. It was very easy. Just make sure you have things in focus and avoid any reflection sheen from the flash if it's used. For videos on using Prizmo go to…
http://www.creaceed.com/prizmo/screencasts.html

When you push the save button it creates an 'extracted' file. Opening the 'extracted' file occurs by default into the Text Edit application but you can, if you prefer, go straight into either Word or Pages (via the "Open With..." option).

So then I tried it with a photo of a sign I took when we were on holiday last year. (Tip for Shutter-bugs, take photos of the signs you see so you can remember where the heck you were and what you were looking at!). This shot was taken with no intention of applying it to some fancy-dancy OCR software or anything of the kind. It wasn't even black on white text. I wondered what Prizmo would be able to do with this. In fact, admittedly to my surprise, it did a pretty good job. At this point I decided that this was some really useful software at a decent price.


Image as imported onto my desk top

Image rotated in Prizmo and desired section 'extracted' as a JPG

Desired section 'extracted' as editable text

THE MAJESTIC SUPERSTITIONS
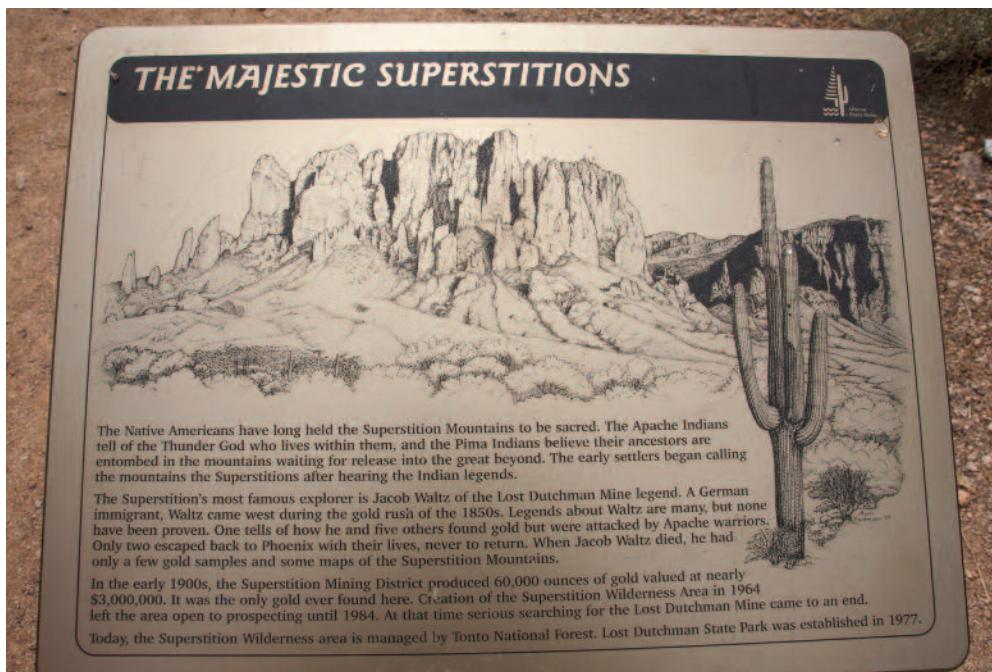
Above is the original JPG of the sign as it was imported to my Desktop. Note the object was not flat: it is not only distorted vertically it's also twisted slightly especially at the bottom. And it's not in black and white. But it is in focus (more or less). I selected the desired text by clicking roughly at the four corners. Then I tweaked the box that was created by dragging the corners to try to get as parallel as possible to the text. Prizmo shows the selection on the left.
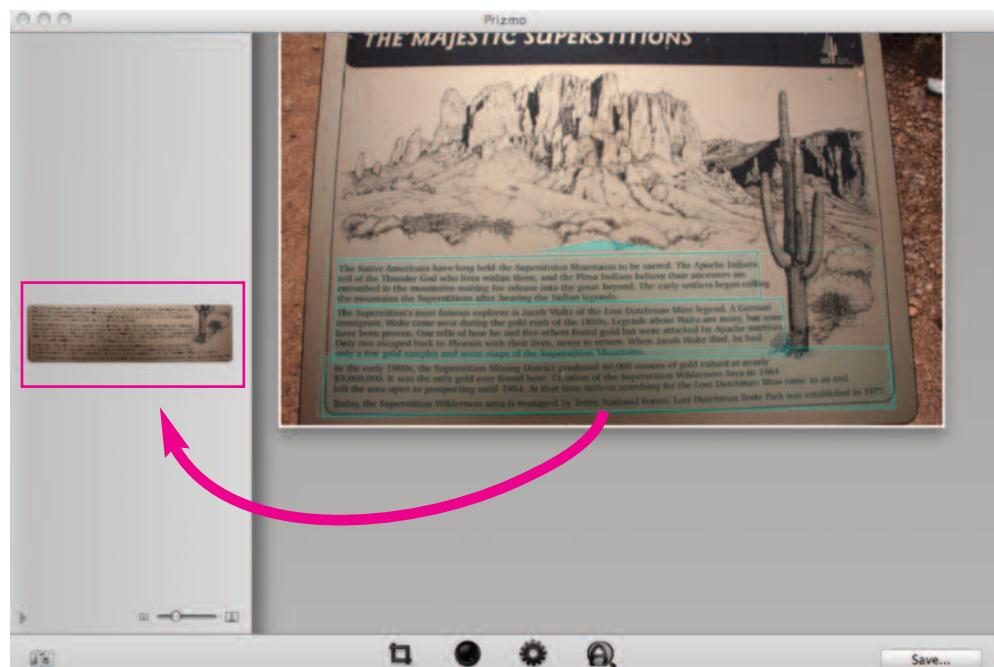
Having optimized the image using the Binarization slider (easy to get the hang of), I clicked the Recognize Text button and in a few seconds one or more smaller boxes appear (in this case three), that indicate regions of recognized text. You can then run your cursor over these boxes and the recognized text is shown at the top of the screen so you can check it out. If it's not good enough you just tweak either the original selection box (now shown by a dotted line) and/or the Binarization slider, to get a better 'read'.

Above is the 'extracted' JPG image of the desired selection from the original. I could have tweaked the image within Prizmo if I wanted a better picture but here I'm trying to show the application can work quite well even in the face of adversity - (my lousy picture). Below is the actual editable text I harvested from the original snap shot. The accuracy becomes less towards the end of the piece as there were marks on the original sign and as I mentioned the sign was twisted.

The Native Americans have long held the Superstition Mountains to be sacred. The Apache Indians tell of the Thunder God who lives within them, and the Pima Indians believe their ancestors are entombed in the mountains waiting for release into the great beyond, The early settlers began calling the mountains the Superstitious after hearing the Indian legends. The Superstition's most famous explorer is Jacob Waltz of the Lost Dutchman Mine legend. A German immigrant, Waltz came west during the gold rush of the 1850s. Legends about Waltz are many, bu have been proven. One tells of how he and five others found gold but were attacked by Apache warriors.　　　　　, Only two escaped back to Phoenix with their lives, never to return. When Jacob Waltz died only a few gold samples and some maps of the Superstition Mountains.　　　　　' ' ~ In the early 1900s, the Superstition Mining District produced 60,000 ounces of gold　　　　　valued at nearly'
.. ~- - "'- $3,000,000. It was the only gold ever found here. Creation of the Superstition wilderfiess Area in 19.64　　:　　. , left the area open to prospering until 1984. At that time serious searching for the Lost Dutchman Mine came to an eno.

~,Today, the Superstition W'flderness area is managed by Tonto National Forest. Lost Dutchman State Park was established in 1977.j

I could have improved the 'read' by doing the last couple of paragraphs on their own with a new selection box more aligned to the lower text. The image I gave Prizmo to interpret was hardly one I'd have aquired if I had really intended to use it for OCR work later. But as you can see the little application did a pretty good job and certainly wouldn't take much time from here to tidy up if it were needed. So, all in all, I've been most impressed with this software. It is definitely worth a look - from any perspective.

Submitted by **Jeff Hurd**

Markzware
ID2Q8 v4

I want it all. I especially want to be able to use my InDesign CS templates and documents with QuarkXPress 8. When it comes to desktop publishing QuarkXPress is recognized as the superior of the two programs but Adobe InDesign, (as the DTP part of the "Adobe answer-to-everything" suite) is getting an awful lot of use and exposure. Heavy emphasis on the "awful". There are countless new documents being created with both of these programs every day to add to the billions already created and stored in archives. Because of this there are a lot of occasions when documents created in one format have to be ported over to the other format to be updated or re-used. There are two ways to do this: the bad way is to purchase both programs, open them up at the same time, and then laboriously scan or copy-paste each text box and image from one document to the other. Very time consuming and expensive. The good way is to use Markzware file conversion software and simply use one program to open the other program's documents.

The Markzware utility for magically converting Quark documents to InDesign documents is called **Q2ID**. The Markzware utility for magically converting InDesign documents to Quark documents is called **ID2Q**. Since ID2Q has just been updated to make it compatible with QuarkXPress 8, which I use, we'll take a look at it.

ID2Q is an XTension. That is, it is a plug-in written to enhance and expand the abilities of QuarkXPress in much the same way that Photoshop plug-ins enhance and expand the abilities of Photoshop. ID2Q can be purchased and downloaded from the Markzware website. It costs only US $199.00. ID2Q offers users a quick and easy way to convert InDesign content into a new QuarkXPress document. This includes the intricate details of all objects of the document such as exact page positioning, color models, fonts and styles, images, as well as precise text attributes. Important items are instantly re-created. Unfortunately there is no demo version of ID2Q for you to download and try out. If you need it, you know it. Once installed, ID2Q shows up in QuarkXPress in its own Markzware menu. To use it just open QuarkXPress and click on "Convert InDesign Document...". A dialog box will appear just like the one you see when you use the "File => Open..." command.

ID2Q8v4.xnt
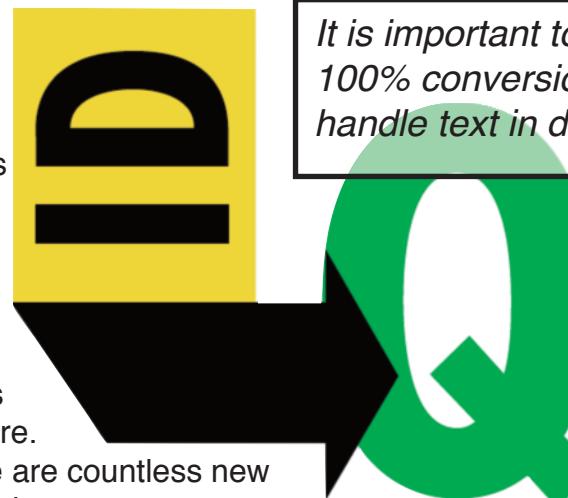
It is important to understand that it is not possible to achieve a 100% conversion due to the fact that QuarkXPress and InDesign handle text in differing ways.

Then navigate to and select the InDesign document you want to convert and open with QuarkXPress and wait for ID2Q to perform its magic. ID2Q can convert InDesign documents created on either the Microsoft Windows or Apple Macintosh OS, into Macintosh or Windows QuarkXPress.

Nothing else can do what ID2Q does and I have to tell you that you there is a modest warning that comes with this software: Markzware acknowledges that Adobe InDesign and QuarkXPress use very different processes for presenting text and this will likely cause problems in the way that text objects from a document created in one program will appear when presented in the other. Markzware warns that anomalies will occur. But they also assure the user that these anomalies will be easily identified and corrected and that the overall result will be a document so close to the original in terms of content that many hours of work will be obviated.

In order to test out this program for this article I tried it with several InDesign CS documents of my own. The results were disappointing because my documents were just too simple. The QuarkXPress 8 versions of the converted InDesign CS documents were so close to perfect that there was really no discernable difference between them. In order to see what the Q2ID was truly capable of I decided to look further afield and use a ringer - a real stinker. I found in the Samples folder that came with InDesign CS a 5.2 Meg .indd document that Adobe uses to highlight the abilities of their program. The document is called **Garden Poster.indd** and it really has it all. I have put a shot of it on the next page as it appears in InDesign CS. It has nine layers, uses lots of different fonts (including some that I don't have installed), overlaps transparencies, uses gradients applied to text, has pictures applied to text, drop shadows, objects that run off the page, text applied to a hand-drawn path snaking across it, and more obscured or hidden features than usually appear in most reasonable documents of this type.

Garden Poster.indd

I would like to apologize for the confusion and clutter that surrounds the picture of the Garden Poster.indd on the next page. Somebody at Adobe should be shot for setting up the InDesign interface with all of those confusing tools and palettes. This picture reminds me why I want to convert InDesign stuff into Quark in the first place !!

After I took the screenshot of the Garden Poster.indd I closed the document and very happily quit the Adobe InDesign CS application. Then I launched QuarkXPress 8 and tried to open the same InDesign docu-

InDesign   File   Edit   Layout   Type   Object   Table   View   Window   Help

Garden Poster.indd @ 75% [Converted]

Paragraph text
Dream Garden title
Text on spiral path
Big orange flower
Green flower
Japanese outline text
Vertical violet banner

9 Layers

[Basic Paragraph]

(No Styles)

Weight: Cap:
Miter Limit: 4   x   Join:
Align Stroke:
Type:
Start: None
End: None
Gap Color: [None]
Gap Tint: 100%

7th edition
Dream Garden
Principles of Design

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【日曜日】午前11時～午後5時
【受講料】3ドル

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御覧ください。

LIGHT & COLOR

The first thing to remember is that color in the
garden is not static, but changing constantly.
The changing character of light from hour
to hour and season to season gives new dimension to
colors. This book is designed to give you a general
understanding of the elements of color in flower
gardening… whether you are planning a formal
garden or a compact space, we'll show you in-
novative ideas for creating gardens with
style and personality—from watering to
the art of arrangement.

Edited by
Suzanne Wright

MASTERING THE ART OF GARDENING

"A different kind of gardening…imaginative, inspiring,
and original—just like the wonderland you c

75%   1   Never Saved

Conversion Options

Text Attributes: Picture Previews:
● Use Styles   ● Use Picture
○ Plain Text   ○ Gray Preview
○ Empty Box   ○ Empty Box

☑ Extract Embedded Images
☑ Grow Overflow Text Boxes
☐ Include Pasteboard Items

Cancel   OK

Garden Poster.indd Info

Garden Poster.indd   5.2 MB
Modified: 2003-10-12 6:56 PM

▶ Spotlight Comments:

▼ General:

Kind: InDesign® CS2 Document
Size: 5.2 MB on disk (5,169,152 bytes)

ment by accessing it through ID2Q. I navigated to
the Garden Poster.indd using the ID2Q method
as previously described, selected it and clicked
Open. The ID2Q Preference window opened first
and I set my Conversion Option preferences.
Hoping that all of the images used to create the
Garden Poster were embedded in it and recog-
nizing that font substitution was going to occur, I
set the simple ID2Q prefer-
ences to extract the embedded images and expand the text boxes if required.
See what I mean about the InDesign CS interface above ? Shot and pissed on.

I clicked "OK" and the Markzware magic began. With all of the various elements
used in this large document it took considerably longer for the conversion to
complete than it took for my own much smaller InDesign documents. Even so, it
took less than a minute for the 5.2 meg **Garden Poster.indd** to turn into the de-
sired 1.6 meg **Garden Poster.qxp** you can see on the next page. The ID2Q
XTension runs a progress bar on the screen to show that the conversion
process is proceeding normally. Great for really big jobs.

Converting InDesign® Document
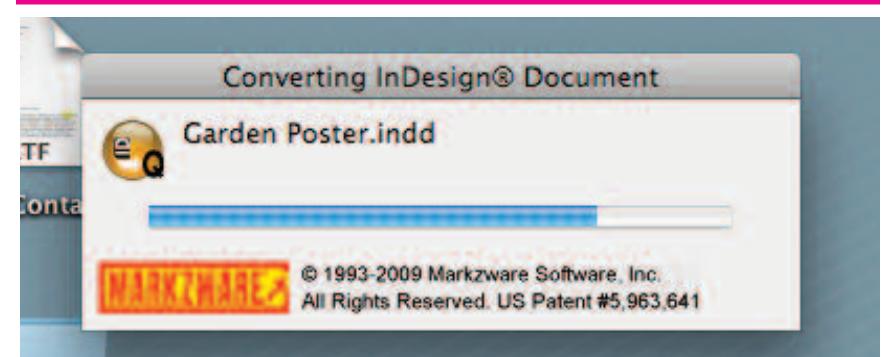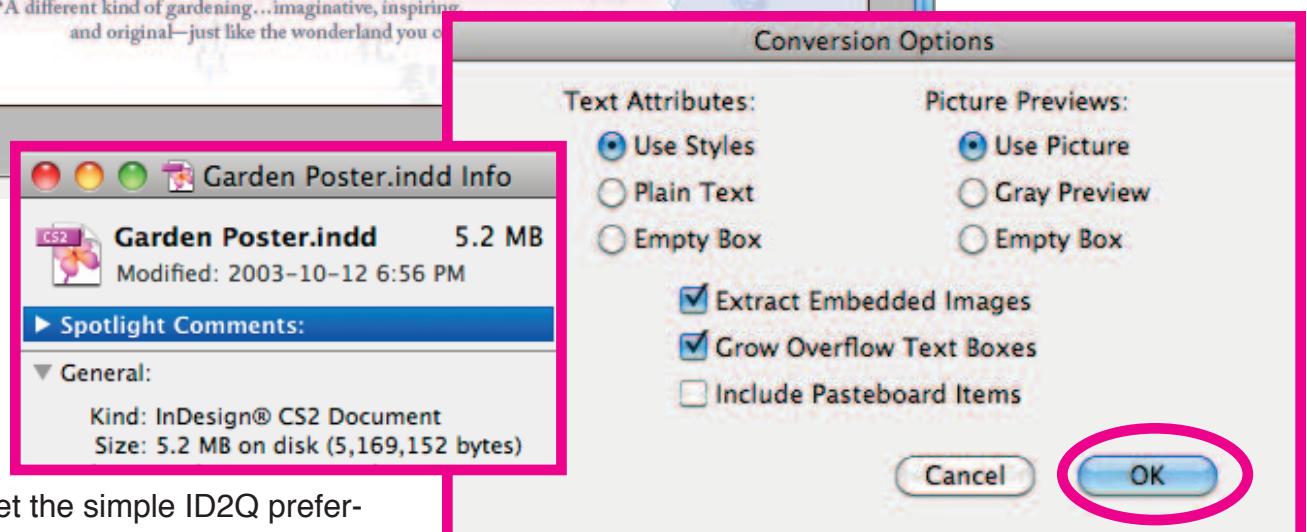
Garden Poster.indd

And here, shown above in all its glory, is the end result. As you can see, the InDesign Garden Poster is now open in QuarkXPress and the document has a .qxp suffix. It is a bona fide QuarkXPress document and can be used in Quark just as if it had been originally created in Quark. It has been reduced to 1.6 megs and all of the images used to create the original are more or less in place. All nine of the original InDesign layers show up in the Quark Layers palette. All objects with drop shadows have retained them. All gradients are intact. Some of the objects will have to have their runaround reset. A few of the images will have to be brought forward and suitable fonts will have to be chosen in a few places to replace the fonts that were used in the original. **These changes will take only a few minutes but recreating just this one document without Markzware's ID2Q XTension would have taken many hours.** Just like I said: Markzware magic.

A bonus ability built into ID2Q is that the InDesign file does not necessarily need to be healthy. There is a video on YouTube that shows that many corrupted InDesign files (.indd files that InDesign cannot open) can be converted with ID2Q and opened in QuarkXPress and then ported back into InDesign as good Quark files if the Markzware InDesign Q2ID plug-in is present.

Markzware ID2Q runs on QuarkXPress 7 and 8, can convert Adobe InDesign 1.5 through CS4 files, and is available for Macintosh OS 10.5 and Windows XP and Vista. See < www.markzware.com > to learn more.

Submitted by Michael Shaw

New From Corel: Painter Essentials 4

In much the same way that Adobe Photoshop has its junior sibling Photoshop Elements, (with many of the popular Photoshop features at a vastly diminished price), so, too, does Corel Painter 11 have its junior sibling, in this case called **Painter Essentials**. Painter Essentials is priced and equipped to be the popular program of choice for people who are interested in using many of the most popular features found in Corel Painter 11 without shelling out the $400.00 that Painter 11 commands.

Painter Essentials 4 is two complete interfaces, each with its own set of tools and purposes. The photo-painting window, shown here at right with its set of auto-painting and associated palettes enables the user to take any digital source image and render it into a simulation of hand-made art. While it is true that there are many Photoshop plug-ins that promise this ability, in fact none of them offer the wide range of controls and presets that Painter Essentials does and most of them cost many times the price of Es-

sentials and require Photoshop in order to run. There are dozens of presets that can be used as-is or customised by editing the paper, brush style, edge treatment and colours. As you can see from the application window above the tools are presented very simply and the program invites exploration and experimentation. What is less apparent is the incredibly powerful rendering engine that drives Painter Es-

sentials 4. Based on the world's most powerful painting and illustration software, Corel Painter 11, but costing about one eighth the price, Painter Essentials 4 is the ideal way to get started with creating and illustrating with images based on your own digital images. To help the new user along there is a library of narrated video tutorials that explain and demonstrate how the user can create artistic treatments and retain control over their use. Unlike plug-ins that merely re-render complete images, Essentials provides brushes and tools that the user applies with mouse or pen.
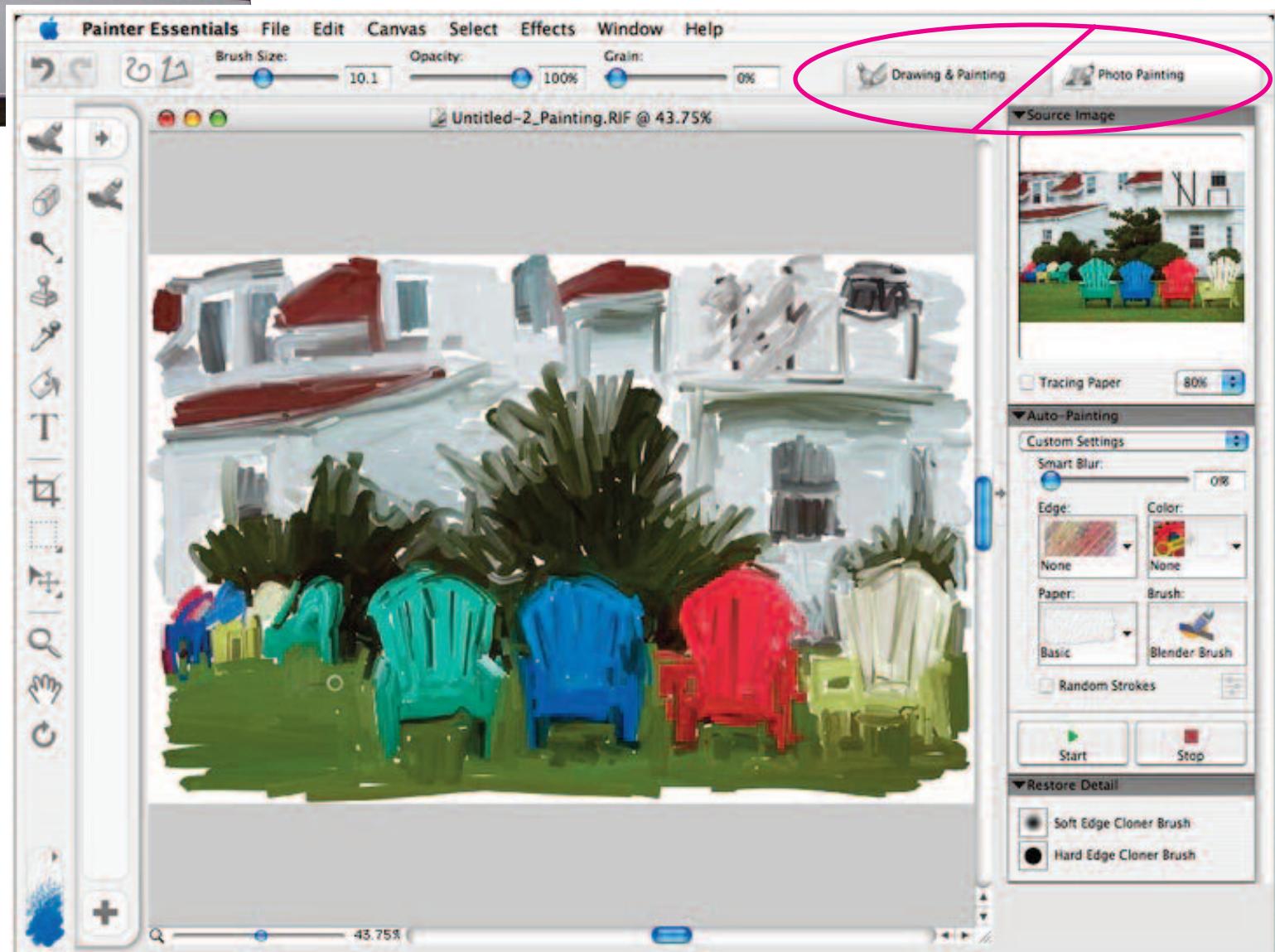
The other aspect of Painter Essentials is the part that is based purely in the user's control of the wide array of pens, brushes, and other colour application tools that can be found in the drawing and painting window. Switching between the two interfaces is as easy as clicking the tabs in the upper right corner of the application window. The Drawing and Painting part of the application, as shown below, gives immediate access to plenty of resources: the 130-page .PDF users guide and the library of **Photo Painting** and **Drawing and Painting** videos and tutorials are just one click from the start of every project.

Besides the resources on the disk there are a lot of online helpers for this program, not that a lot are needed. What is needed is plentifully provided: direct links to the online community of other Painter Essentials users and links to galleries of their works.

Corel has a huge corral of software products for amatuer and professional photo and video editing, illustration and design, and office productivity. Go to : **http://www.corel.com/** to find out more. You can download fully-featured demo copies and try out any Corel title (including Painter Essentials 4) that tickles your fancy and purchase the code online when you decide to buy. With Corel software you can always buy now, use the product for a full 30 days and, if you're not 100% satisfied for any reason, you get your money back.

Article submitted by **Michael Shaw**

January 2010 MaUsE Draw & Raffle

The first MaUsE Loyalty Draw of 2010 brought good news to the two Mikes - one of them won $100.00 in the draw and the other (c'est moi) won the 8-gigabyte flash drive. There were also some really nice prizes awarded in the MaUsE Raffle. We had software, hardware and books. A few of the items were brought to the meeting and donated by MaUsE Members and that was good to see. We still have MaUsE members using older systems who would love to take home your old software so please feel free to bring in donations of used Apple books and programs.
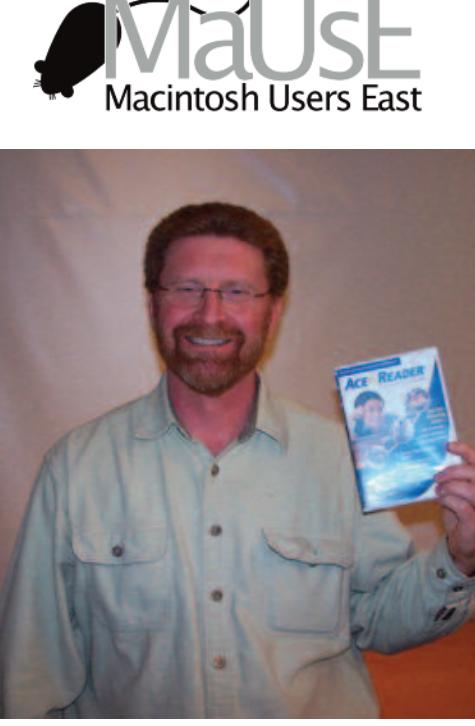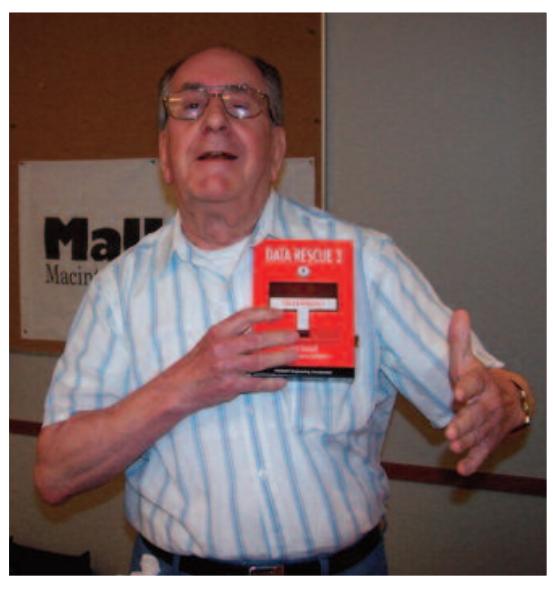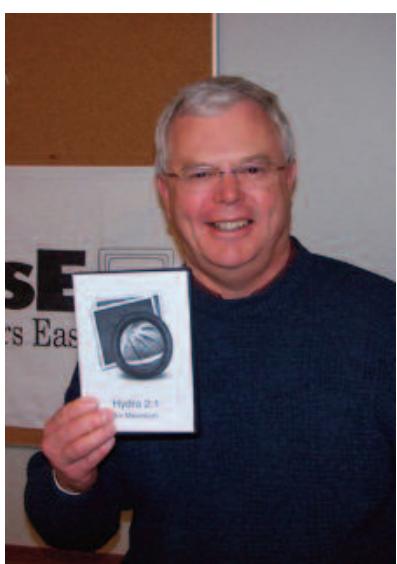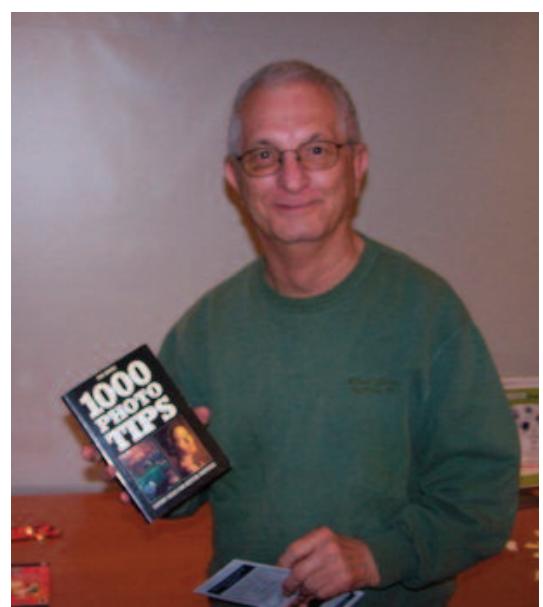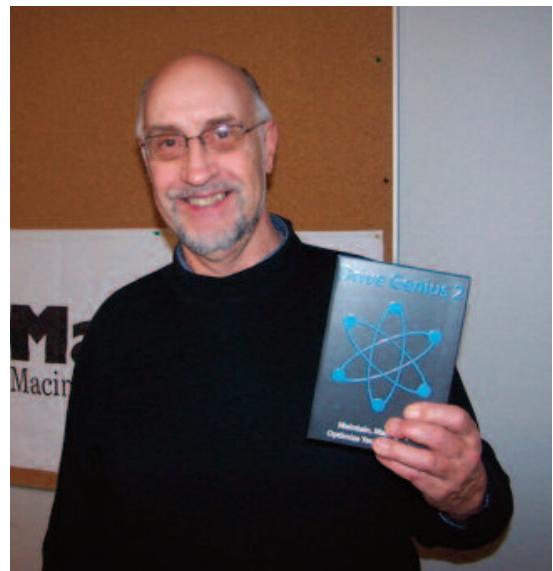
January 2010 MaUsE Meeting Report

Our first MaUsE gathering of the year coincided with the January 27th Apple Event. From beginning to end it was Aaron's time to show his enthusiasm and delight with Apple's new iPad product line. Aaron had time to check it all out and he told us all about the news from Apple at the evening meeting. We watched the iPad video that was on the Apple website and Aaron talked about where this new technology was going.


Come see our latest creation.

Doug Mirans and Kayhan Boncoglu came to the January meeting to talk to us about the iHelp program they are piloting at the Pickering Public Library.

iHelp is the Pickering Library's new digital services and media centre. This new service desk is located at the Central Library, and is open Monday to Friday 1:00 p.m to 9:00 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The iHelp centre will provide access to five Apple iMac computers fully stocked with state-of-the-art media creation software and two photo printing and scanning kiosks. Specifically, library clients will be able to:
 • Print digital photos from many makes of digital cameras as well as from digital photo media such as CompactFlash and SD cards.
 • Scan and convert old print photos to a digital format and archive these onto a CD/DVD or flash drive.
 • Use Adobe PhotoShop to create and edit photos and other pixel-based digital imagery.
 • Use Adobe Illustrator to create and edit vector-based digital imagery such as logos and other digital art.
 • Use Adobe InDesign to create and edit sophisticated print-based page layouts such as books, pamphlets and flyers.
 • Use Apple GarageBand to create that musical masterpiece for your blog or podcast.
 • Use Apple Final Cut Express to create and edit digital video for your website or create a DVD to display on your television.
 • Sign out a Library iPod pre-loaded with audiobooks, or bring in your own iPod or iPhone. see Do you want an iPod with your audiobook? for more details.
 • Computer and technology advice, operating system questions for Windows, Mac OS X, and Linux, software recommendations including free and open source alternatives answered by our knowledgeable staff and much more.
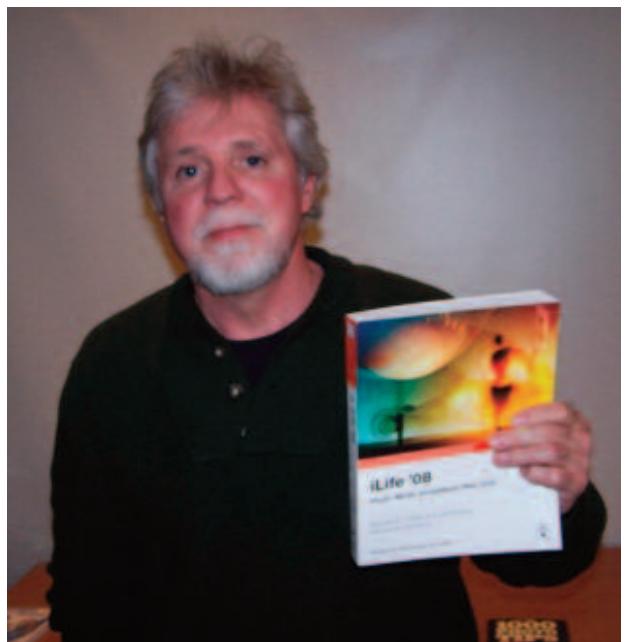
It's About the Money...

Macintosh Users East is a good computer club. It is your club and we appreciate the support that you the members have given to it this past year. We trust that your enthusiastic participation will continue unabated in the coming year.

Macintosh Users East relies on the yearly fees paid by you to cover all of our MaUsE operating expenses and we are now coming to that time in the year when we start collecting the current year's membership dues.

In the coming months I shall be sending each member a letter advising them when their dues are payable. When you get your letter you will be helping the club by paying your dues promptly.

Many members find it convenient to simply bring their annual dues to the next members meeting and hand their cheque or cash over to me in return for their new membership card. If you prefer, you can mail your membership cheque to me. You will find my address on the dues
letter that I shall send to you.

If you have any questions about your membership please either call me directly. My telephone number is 905-430-4562. Or speak to any of the club's directors - they and I will be happy to answer your questions.

In advance I thank you for your cooperation.
      Stan Wild
      MaUsE Treasurer